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July 22, 1996

William F. Caton
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W. - Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

**RE: Ex Parte Notice
CC Docket No. 96-98**

Dear Mr. Caton:

On July 22, 1996, the undersigned and Howard Shelanski (Kellogg, Huber, Hansen, Todd, and Evans) representing USTA met with FCC Assistant General Counsel Suzanne Tetreault, Sonja Ripken, Majorie Bertman and Nick Bourne (all of the General Counsel's office).

Mr. Shelanski and I reiterated USTA's legal arguments as to why agreements among neighboring incumbent local exchange carriers are not within the scope of Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. USTA's position on this matter is contained at pages 67-70 of USTA's comments in this docket filed on May 16, 1996.

An original and one copy of this ex parte notice are being filed in the Office of the Secretary. Please include this notice in the public record of these proceedings.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary McDermott
Vice President -
Legal & Regulatory Affairs

- cc: H. Shelanski
- S. Tetreault
- S. Ripken
- M. Bertman
- N. Bourne

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