



UNITED STATES
TELEPHONE
ASSOCIATION

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March 6, 1997

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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

**RE: Ex Parte Notice
CC Docket No. 96-262**

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Mr. Caton:

On March 5, 1997, a group representing the United States Telephone Association (USTA) held a series of four meetings with FCC staff. At the first meeting, Mary McDermott (USTA), Ed Lowry (Bell Atlantic), Tom Whittaker (Bell Atlantic) and Jeffrey Rohlfs (Strategic Policy Research) met with members of the Common Carrier Bureau's Accounting and Audits Division, including Ken Moran, Wade Herriman, Thomas David and Andy Mulitz.

At the second meeting, Mary McDermott (USTA), Ed Lowry (Bell Atlantic), Tom Whittaker (Bell Atlantic) and Jeffrey Rohlfs (Strategic Policy Research) met with Jim Casserly and Dan Gonzalez of the FCC.

At the third meeting, Frank McKennedy (USTA), Ed Lowry (Bell Atlantic), Tom Whittaker (Bell Atlantic), Whit Jordan (BellSouth) and Jeffrey Rohlfs (Strategic Policy Research) met with Jane Jackson, Belinda Garrett, Cameron Kashani, Brad Wimmer, Mark Seifert and Katherine Schroeder of the FCC.

At the last meeting, Frank McKennedy (USTA), Ed Lowry (Bell Atlantic), Tom Whittaker (Bell Atlantic), Jay Bennett (Pactel), Jeffrey Rohlfs (Strategic Policy Research), Jim Smith (Ameritech), Ken Rust (NYNEX), Larry Sarjeant (U S WEST), and Brenda Fox (U S WEST) met with Regina Keeney, Pat DeGraba, Don Stockdale, Ken Moran, Doug Slotten, Jim Schlichting, Jay Atkinson and Kathy Levitz of the FCC.

At each meeting, the USTA group discussed the association's position on depreciation issues, particularly as set forth in the two expert statements by Dr. Rohlfs that were included in USTA's comments and replies in this docket. In addition to discussing that material, Dr. Rohlfs cited the "International Telecommunication Union, World Development Report: Information Infrastructure, World Telecommunication

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Indicators, 1995" showing that the cost per access line in the United States is one of the lowest in the world, with only Great Britain and Denmark with lower costs per access line.

Because of the lateness of the last meeting, this notice is being filed today. 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: Ken Moran Wade Herriman
 Andy Mulitz Dan Gonzalez
 Jane Jackson Belinda Garrett
 Cameron Kashani Brad Wimmer
 Mark Seifert Katherine Schroeder
 Regina Keeney Pat DeGraba
 Don Stockdale Doug Slotten
 Jim Schlicting Jay Atkinson
 Kathy Levitz Jim Casserly