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EX PARTE

April 18, 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**

Dear Mr. Caton:

On April 17, 1997, Bob Blau (BellSouth) and Mary McDermott (USTA), both representing USTA, met with Richard Metzger and Kathy Franco of the FCC's Common Carrier Bureau.

The two USTA representatives discussed the association's views on several issues involving access reform. Specifically, USTA reiterated the difficulties in distinguishing primary residence lines from second lines for the purpose of assessing access charges. USTA also emphasized that Universal Service funding, for all purposes, should be collected and disbursed as efficiently as possible by the administrator. USTA pointed out the arbitrage opportunities if there were a large disparity between any flat rate charges applicable to business lines compared with those applicable to residence lines. USTA also stated that in no event should the price cap productivity factor be raised, and repeated its view that there should continue to be productivity options in the price cap plan.

Because of the lateness of the meeting, this notice is being filed today. The 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: R. Metzger
K. Franco
B. Blau

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