

CA Docket 97-21



August 15, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
Room 814
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20054

RECEIVED
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

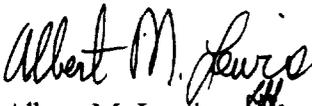
Re: Large IXC Nominee for the USAC Board of Directors

Dear Chairman Hundt:

The undersigned companies nominate Mr. Donald T. Lynch as a director of the Board of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) to represent large interexchange carriers. Mr. Lynch is the Senior Vice President, Financial Operations and Local Markets, MCI Communications. Mr. Lynch's biographical information is attached to this letter.

Thank you for this opportunity to nominate a member to the Board.

Sincerely,


Albert M. Lewis
AT&T


Catherine R. Sloan
WorldCom, Inc.


Norina Moy
Sprint


Leonard S. Sawicki
MCI

Attachment

cc: Mr. William Caton
Ms. Lori Wright

DONALD T. LYNCH, Senior Vice President, Financial Operations, MCI Telecommunications Corporation

Don Lynch is senior vice president of Financial Operations for MCI Telecommunications Corporation. In this capacity, Mr. Lynch is responsible for all financial transactions affecting MCIT. His duties include managing MCIT's revenue operations, and controlling access and lease network expenses incurred by the company. His duties include cultivating new business opportunities, as well as gaining entry into the local markets. Mr. Lynch is also responsible for maintaining MCI's business relationships with all Local Exchange Carriers.

Mr. Lynch has been with MCI sixteen years. Prior to joining MCI in 1981 as Senior Manager of Revenue Accounting, he had a successful career with the accounting and management consulting firm of Ernst and Whinney (now Ernst and Young). Don Lynch served as MCI's Director of Accounting Services, and was named Vice President of Finance and Administration of the company's Southwest Division in 1985. More recently, Don served as Vice President of Carrier Management, and networkMCI Financial Services. B.S., M.B.A. Canisus University.

CC Docket 97-21
Dale (Zeke) Robertson
Senior Vice President

SBC Telecommunications, Inc.
1401 I Street, N.W.
Suite 1100
Washington, D.C. 20005
Phone 202 326-8836
Fax 202 289-3699



August 15, 1997

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20037

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AUG 20 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Hundt:

This letter is in support of the nomination of Dr. Barbara O'Connor to the Universal Service Board. Dr. O'Connor has a long history of commitment to the goals of the Universal Service program at both the state and federal levels, and she has been a leader for the past fifteen years in K-12 technology.

Dr. O'Connor served as the Chair of California's Education Technology Committee for more than ten years. In this capacity, she was instrumental in driving state legislation for schools that became the model for states throughout the nation. More recently, she was Chair of the state Task Force of Education Technology with leaders from private industry and public sector. This group provided California's Governor and legislature with a road map for funding initiatives and policy for universal access to technology for all the K-12 students.

At the federal level, Dr. O'Connor has been one of the key spokespersons and leaders for universal service over the past decade. As Chair of the Alliance for Public Technology, she has promoted the goals of universal service and education technology. She has worked with the FCC on the Network Reliability Council and has served as advisor to many public sector initiatives.

We believe that Barbara has demonstrated her dedicated and service to the principles of the Universal Service program, and that our nation would be well served in having her as a representative on the Universal Service Board. We encourage you to appoint her to this board.

Sincerely,

Zeke Robertson

Genevieve Morelli
Executive Vice President
& General Counsel

August 14, 1997

Reed E. Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St., N.W.
Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED
AUG 20 1997
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: CC Docket Nos. 96-45; 97-21
Nomination to the USAC Board of Directors

Dear Chairman Hundt:

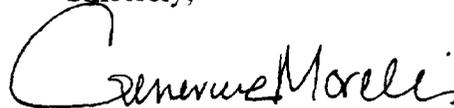
The Competitive Telecommunications Association ("CompTel") hereby nominates Lera Roark to serve as the director of the NECA Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC") designated to represent interexchange carriers ("IXCs") with annual operating revenues of \$3 billion or less.

CompTel is a nationwide industry association which represents the interests of competitive telecommunications carriers. CompTel's more than 200 members include competitive long distance, local exchange and information service providers. CompTel has a significant core membership base of interexchange carriers with annual operating revenues of less than \$3 billion.

Lera Roark, who is a Vice President for Telephone Electronics Corporation, serves as a member of CompTel's Board of Directors. At TEC, Ms. Roark has been involved in and responsible for interexchange carrier issues since 1984. A copy of her professional biography is attached.

Please address any inquiries regarding this letter to the undersigned.

Sincerely,



Genevieve Morelli

Attachment
cc: Secretary
Lera Roark

LERA ROARK
VICE PRESIDENT
TELEPHONE ELECTRONICS CORPORATION

1984 - Present **Telephone Electronics Corporation**
Vice President

Responsibilities include start-up functions for new interexchange carrier companies, including ordering of switches and related equipment and services. Extensive knowledge of interexchange carrier issues.

Responsible for all general subscriber tariffs, interstate and intrastate access tariffs, NECA settlements, subscriber billing, carrier access billing, special services, message accounting, lockbox processing, revenue accounting functions, and information technology functions for TEC's subsidiary companies.

Has served on the Board of Directors of the Competitive Telecommunications Association (CompTel) since 1992 as the representative of Telephone Electronics Corp., a company with less than \$3 billion annual operating revenues.

Serves on the Mississippi Public Service Commission Task Force, the Mississippi Small Company Task Force and the Alabama Universal Service Fund Committee. Issues addressed by those task forces include universal service support for schools, libraries and rural health care providers, local number portability, and intraLATA dialing parity.

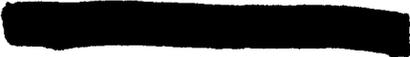
1979 - 1984 **Communication Consultants, Inc.**
Consultant and Tariff Analyst

Was responsible for writing, filing and obtaining approval of general subscriber tariffs for 110 independent telephone companies. Responsibilities also included development of cost studies and participation in rate cases.

1969 - 1979 **Century Telephone Enterprises, Inc.**
Assistant Commercial Manager

Responsibilities included tariffs, directories, Bell settlements and rate cases.

CC Docket 97-21



ATSP

ASSOCIATION OF TELEMEDICINE SERVICE PROVIDERS

7276 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy, Suite 400, Portland, Oregon 97225

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AUG 20 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

F A X C O V E R S H E E T

DATE: August 15, 1997 TIME: 1:39 PM
 TO: Chairman Reed E. Hundt PHONE: 202/418-7391
 FCC FAX: 202/418-2801
 FROM: Douglas A. Perednia PHONE: 503/222-2406
 FAX: 503/223-7581
 RE: Nomination of Ms. McClosky Armstrong to Universal Service Administrator
 Advisory Committee (USAAC).
 CC:

Number of pages including cover sheet: ~~5~~ 7

Message

Chairman Hundt,

This fax contains a letter requesting your consideration of Dr. Pamela Whitten as a nominee to the Universal Service Administrator Advisory Committee (USAAC) and Dr. Whitten's vita/resume.

The instructions for nomination indicate that one copy of this nomination be sent to Secretary William Caton. Because no fax line is available in his office we request a copy of this request for nomination be sent to him by one of your associates. Thank you for your time, and please contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Douglas A. Perednia, M.D.
 President, ATSP



Association of Telemedicine Service Providers

August 15, 1997

Chairman Reed E. Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the members of the Association of Telemedicine Service Providers (ATSP), it is my privilege to nominate Dr. Pamela Whitten to serve on the Universal Service Administration Advisory Committee (USAAC). The ATSP represents many rural telecommunications-oriented health service providers in all regions of the U.S. Because of Dr. Whitten extensive and broad-based knowledge of rural health care delivery and telecommunications issues, the ATSP asks that you appoint her as a candidate representing rural health care providers.

Dr. Whitten is a proven leader in the field of health care, and especially in the delivery of telemedicine to rural populations. She is the current director of Information Technology Services and Research Telemedicine Services at the Kansas University Medical Center (KUMC). Dr. Whitten's primary focus has been on developing and implementing strategic technical and telecommunications solutions to improve the health of citizens in rural Kansas. [For further information concerning Dr. Whitten professional activities please refer to the attached vita.]

Dr. Whitten is acutely aware of the challenges that rural health care providers are facing and the promise of new hope that telecommunications technology and greater connectivity in rural areas can bring. Under her direction, the telemedicine program associated with KUMC has quadrupled in activity, from 250 patients seen via telemedicine in 1995 to 1000 in 1996. Dr. Whitten's skills in health care delivery management and problem solving are without compare. Her experiences in rural telemedicine have made Dr. Whitten intimately familiar with the topics that the USAAC will be expected to manage.

The ATSP understands that the Universal Service Order will be an unprecedented investment into the lives of hundreds of thousands of people in rural communities across the United States. Because of the FCC's careful planning, management, and effort, we anticipate that the health and education of America's rural citizens will be substantially enhanced. It is the wish of the ATSP that the best possible candidate is chosen and, therefore, we are pleased to offer this nomination.

If we can clarify any questions that may develop, please contact me at (503) 222-2406. Thank you for your invaluable time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Douglas A. Perednia, M.D.
President, ATSP

VITA
Pamela S. Whitten, Ph.D.

Office: University of Kansas
Information Technology
Services and Research
3901 Rainbow Blvd
Kansas City, KS 66160-7171
(913) 588-2224
Internet: pwhitten@kumc.edu

Home: 10109 Monrovia
Lenexa, KS 66215
(913) 438-4192

EDUCATION

- Ph.D.** University of Kansas, Department of Communication Studies
1996 Major Areas of Study: Health Communication, Organizational Communication
Specific Areas of Research: New technology and communication; Technology in health care organizations; Diffusion of innovations; Telemedicine
Dissertation: Transcending the technology of telemedicine: A case analysis of a telemedicine organization.
- M.A.** University of Kentucky, Department of Communication
1986 Major Area of Study: Organizational Communication
- B.S.M.** Tulane University, School of Business
1985

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

- 1995 - University of Kansas Medical Center
Present Kansas City, Kansas
Director, Information Technology Services and Research (ITSR),
Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine
Responsibilities include:
- Develop and implement organizational infrastructure for telemedicine as well as other emerging information and communications technologies related to supporting medical practice throughout Kansas.
 - Determine short- and long-term strategic goals for ITSR department and implement means for operationalizing and measuring success of meeting goals.
 - Develop and evaluate effective communication linkages and support systems for primary care practices throughout Kansas.
 - Research, create, and administer procedures for efficient day-to-day operations for this program.
 - Develop and supervise coordination of training programs related to telemedicine and other information technologies originating from this program.
 - Act as and supervise liaison relationships with rural facilities throughout Kansas.
 - Generate and supervise academic research projects.

1991-
1992 **Southern Regional Medical Center**
Riverdale, Georgia

External Communications Manager, Responsibilities included:

- Developing and implementing strategic communication programs to build support for the hospital among the southside Atlanta business community.
- Developing proactive media relations program to effectively communicate hospital messages and agendas to key audiences.
- Bolstering existing and creating new communication channels to maximize two-way flow of communication with public at large.
- Determining external communication strategic goals and developing appropriate marketing programs to meet goals (e.g., physician recruitment, increasing female market share).
- Managing and monitoring all media relations.

1988-
1990 **Merchants National Bank & Trust Co.**
Frankfurt, West Germany

Under contract from U.S. Department of Defense

Internal Communications Manager, Responsibilities included:

- Defining objectives and responsibilities of this newly created position.
- Conducting initial evaluative research to gauge outstanding organizational communication issues and problems.
- Developing and implementing organizational strategic plans to facilitate and maximize effective communication within and between organizational headquarters and 75 + branches throughout Germany, Holland, and Greece.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

1993-95 Teaching Assistant, University of Kansas
1993 Lecturer, Clayton State College
1993 Lecturer, Gordon College, Barnesville, Georgia
1988 Instructor, University of Maryland, Frankfurt, West Germany
1986 Instructor, University of Louisville
1985-86 Teaching Assistant, University of Kentucky

AWARDS AND HONORS

1985 Graduated Magna Cum Laude
Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society
1982 Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society

COURSES TAUGHT

Basic Public Speaking
Organizational Communication
Basic Communication Theory
Managerial Communication

PUBLICATIONS

- Whitten, P. and Collins, B. (1977) The diffusion of telemedicine: Communicating an Innovation. Science Communication, 19(1):21-40.
- Whitten, P., Mair, F., May, C., Doolittle, G. (1997). Telemedicine Specialty Clinics: What Do Patients Think About Them? Proceedings of the Association of University Departments of General Practice (AUDGP), Annual Scientific Meeting, July.
- Mair, F.S., Whitten, P., & Allen, A. (In press). Organizational and interpersonal communication issues in telemedicine. Health and Social Care in the Community.
- Whitten, P. (1997). Telemedicine: The answer to a rural state's health care woes?. In B.D. Sypher (Ed.), Case studies in organizational communication (2nd ed.). New York: The Guilford Press.
- Sypher, B.D., Shuler, S., & Whitten, P. (1997). Constraints and creativity at Winning Ways. In B.D. Sypher (Ed.), Case studies in organizational communication (2nd ed.). New York: The Guilford Press.
- Franken, E.A., & Whitten, P. (1996). Teleradiology services for a rural hospital: A case study. Journal of Telemedicine and Telecare, 2, 155-160.
- Whitten, P. (1995). Defining a structure for delivery of telemedical services. Healthcare Information Management, 9 (3), 23-33.
- Whitten, P., & Franken, E.A. (1995). Telemedicine for patient consultation: factors affecting use by rural primary care physicians in Kansas. Journal of Telemedicine and Telecare, 1, 139-144.
- Whitten, P., & Allen, A. (1995). Organizational implications of telemedicine: A study of the Kansas telemedicine program. Telemedicine Journal, 1 (3), 203-213.
- Whitten, P., & Marlow, G. (1994). Transitions: Bridges to connect your speech. In M.L. Hummert and K. Jensen (Eds.), Handbook of personal communication (2nd ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Whitten, P. (1994). Beyond the technology of telemedicine. Proceedings of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society: Taking the on-ramp to the information superhighway (pp. 137-149). Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society: Chicago, IL.

Work in Progress/Submission

Whitten, P., & Lawson, D.P. (in progress). Charting communication similarities and differences between telemedical and traditional health care delivery.

- Whitten, P., & Lawson, D.P. (in progress). A comparison of rural versus urban physician perceptions of telemedicine.
- Franken, E.A., & Whitten, P. (in progress). Relationships between radiologists and clinicians: The effects of teloradiology.
- Whitten, P., Ford, D., Davis, N., Speicher, R., and Collins, B. (in submission). A comparison of face-to-face versus interactive CME delivery modalities.

CONVENTION PAPERS

- Whitten, P. and Collins, B. (1997). The multifaceted provision of telehome health services. International Conference on Telemedicine and Telecare. Royal Society of Medicine, London, November.
- Whitten, P., Zaylor, C., Ermer, D. (1997). Telepsychiatry in rural America: A State Initiative. Accepted for presentation at American Psychiatric Association, San Diego, CA, May.
- Whitten, P. (1996). Telemedicine as context: A study of a social construct reality for a health care technology. Paper presented at Speech Communication Association, San Diego, CA, November.
- Whitten, P., Mair, F., and Hane, A. (1996). Home nursing care without a nurse even walking into the home?: A study of tele-home health care. Paper presented at the International Conference on Communication, Aging and Health, Kansas City, MO.
- Whitten, P. (1996). Telemedicine as education: A study of a continuing medical education application. Paper presented at the International Communication Association, Chicago, IL.
- Doolittle, G.C., Allen, A., Wittman, C., Carlson, E. & Whitten, P. (1996). Oncology care for rural Kansans via telemedicine: The establishment of tele-oncology practice. Am Proc Am Society Clinical Oncology 15: 326. (abstract 933).
- Whitten, P. (1995). Why does our hospital need telemedicine?: The introduction of new technology in a health care network. Paper presented at the annual convention of the Speech Communication Association, San Antonio, TX, November.
- Shuler, S., & Whitten, P. (1995). Power at work: An examination of narrative discourse within an organization. Paper presented at the annual convention of the Speech Communication Association, San Antonio, TX, November.
- Hummert, M.L., Mazloff, D., Henry, C., & Whitten, P. (1995). Older adult's responses to patronizing vs. affirming messages. Paper presented at the annual convention of the Speech Communication Association, San Antonio, TX, November.
- Whitten, P. (1995). Transcending the technology of telemedicine: An examination of telemedicine from an organizational perspective. Paper presented at the International Communication Association conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico, May.
- Whitten, P., & Franken, E.A. (1995). A survey of rural primary care practitioners' attitudes and perceptions of telemedicine. Paper presented at Second International Conference on the Medical Aspects of Telemedicine & Second Annual Mayo Telemedicine Symposium, Rochester, Minnesota, April.

- Whitten, P. (1995). An argument for the advantages of viewing the communication discipline as an organization and incorporating a strategically ambiguous mission. Paper presented at Central States Speech Association Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana, April.
- Sypher, B.D., Whitten, P., & Shuler, S. (1994). Envisioning organizational possibilities: The case of Winning Ways. Paper presented at the annual convention of the Speech Communication Association, New Orleans, LA, November.
- Whitten, P. (1994). Beyond the technology of telemedicine. Paper presented at the Conference for Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society: Taking the on-ramp to the information superhighway. Chicago, IL., September.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Academy of Management
International Communication Association
Speech Communication Association
American Telemedicine Association

SERVICE

- 1997 Research Director, American Telemedicine Service Provider Association
- 1996-present Courtesy Faculty, Communication Studies, University of Kansas
- 1996-present Research and Evaluation Task Force, American Telemedicine Association
- 1996-present Chair, Telemedicine Operational Implementation Task Force of the American Telemedicine Association
- 1995-present Member of Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition
- 1994-95 Facilitated focus group project for University of Kansas University Relations Department
- 1994-95 Appointed graduate student representative to University of Kansas Child Care Task Force
- 1994 Member of committee which organized the Seventh Annual Organizational Communication Mini Conference

CC Docket 97-21

Ronald Guth
2129 Wells Dr.
Hood River, OR 97031

W 541-387-6451
H 541-386-4131
FAX 541-387-6462
E-Mail Rong@Gorge.net

Educational Experience:
University of Kansas BS/Accounting June 1975

University of Colorado/Denver
Enrolled July 1997 MSHA Expected July, 1999

Professional Experience:

March 1989 to Present:
Hood River Memorial Hospital Hood River, OR 97031
Chief Financial Officer

Responsible for all fiscal and support services for a 32 bed acute care hospital and 27 unit senior housing structure. The departmental responsibilities include; accounting, billing, admitting, collections, information services, medical records, transcription, communications, purchasing, dietary, engineering, construction, housekeeping, and laundry.

I have represented HRMH to the Columbia Gorge Community Network, (a regional 4 hospital cooperative network) and to Columbia Gorge Physician Hospital Organization (100 physicians and four hospitals). The hospital network was formed to develop cooperative solutions for the provision of services and infrastructure to increase services, improve quality, reduce costs, or improve the health of the region's communities. The PHO was developed to allow the physicians and hospitals of the region to develop an partnership approach to risk based insurance products. The PHO has taken over 100% of the Medicaid clients under the risk based managed care of the Oregon Health Plan for our four county region. The current project of the PHO is the develop of community owned commercial HMO product that is risk based to better meet the needs of local employers.

I have personally chaired a number of committees within the informal organization of both the Hospital network and the PHO. These include the development of a courier service, region wide voice/data networks, collection agency, and PHO reimbursement committee. I have been an active member on five other network committees.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

January 1984 to March 1989

Sprint/United Telephone Company Hood River, OR 97031

1/84 to 4/87

Access Revenues Manager, Revenues Department

Responsible for the FCC cost separations procedures, both state and federal rate filings, revenues budgets, and the traffic measurement reports. Was part of the initial development team for the corporate response to the FCC breakup of AT&T and the new access charge filings to implement the competitive structure of telecommunication industry it brought.

4/87 to 3/89

Operational and Capital Budgets Manager, Engineering Department

Responsible for the development, implementation, and tracking of the operations and construction budgets for all service areas in the northwest.

June 1977 to December 1983

Troupe, Kehoe, Whiteaker, and Kent CPA's Kansas City, MO

Utility Consultant, Manager

Responsible for consulting to a number of rural telephone companies in all aspects of their operations. This would include cost separations studies, traffic studies, annual financial audits, reimbursement negotiations, property valuations, inventory of equipment, and rate filings.

June 1973 to June 1977

United Parcel Service Kansas City, KS

Supply Clerk/Delivery Person/District Accountant

Final position was as accountant for the Kansas operations. The major activity was the development of the costs of operations for levels of the organization, from a macro view to the most detailed view possible.

Organizations:

Pine Grove Volunteer Fire Department Fireman 1987 to present

Hood River Transportation District Charter Board Member 1986 to 1994

Hood River Chapter American Red Cross

Board Member 1989 to 1995

Chairman Local Disaster Committee 1990 to 1996

4-H Grievance Committee Chairman 1995 to present

Hood River County Fair Board Board Member 1996 to present

Hood River County Charter Rewrite Committee Committee Member 1996 to 1997

Crystal Springs Water District Budget Committee Chairman 1993 to present

Personal Activities

Odell Little League Coach 6 years

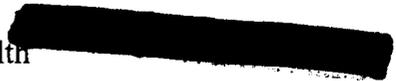
Pine Grove Skate Club Manager 6 Years

Pine Grove Primary School Technology Committee 4 years

Raising three wonderful children, Gardening, Traveling with family, Camping, Wood Working,
Working on Cars and antique equipment,

CC Docket 97-21

National Rural Health Association
American Hospital Association
National Organization Of State Offices Of Rural Health



August 15, 1997

Mr. Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED
AUG 20 1997
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Hundt:

The National Rural Health Association, American Hospital association and National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health are pleased to submit nominations for the rural health care provider representatives on both the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) and the Rural Health Care Corporation boards of directors.

For the joint position of director on both USAC and Rural Health Care Corporation Board we nominate Mr. Isiah C. Lineberry. Mr. Lineberry is Director of the Office of Rural Health Policy, Office of Community and Rural Health Services, West Virginia Department of Public Health.

For the additional position of rural health care provider representative on the Rural Health Care Corporation Board, we nominate Mr. Ronald Guth. Mr. Guth is Chief Financial Officer of Hood River Memorial Hospital in Hood River, Oregon.

Both Mr. Lineberry and Mr. Guth's experience in developing innovative ways to intergrate telecommunication into a changing rural health care delivery system demonstrates their ability to serve on these boards. Additional, both have worked extensively with the FCC on either the universal issues related to the telecommunication industry. Biographical information on both Mr. Lineberry and Mr. Guth are attached.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these nomination. We look forward to working with you and these boards to ensure a timely and efficient implementation of the rural health care provider provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

If you have additional questions regarding our nomination, please contact Darin Johnson, NRHA Government Affairs Director at (202) 232-6200 or Lisa Potetz, AHA at (202) 626-2273.

Sincerely,

Tim Size

Tim Size, President
National Rural Health Association

James Bentley

James D. Bentley, Senior Vice President
American Hospital Association

Val Schott

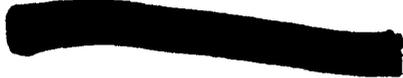
Val Schott, President
National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health

CC Docket 97-21

08/12/97 11:43

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AUG 20 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

August 12, 1997

Mr. Reed Hundt, Chairman
c/o Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W. Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt,

I am writing on behalf of OMB Watch to support the nomination of Ellis Jacobs of the Legal Aid Society of Dayton, Ohio for the Universal Service Administrative Company to represent low-income consumer interests.

Mr. Jacobs is uniquely qualified to serve in this capacity. He is the litigation director and chief counsel for the Legal Aid Society of Dayton, Inc., and has served in this capacity for over ten years. In this position, he has focused on telecommunications cases. He also has served as counsel for the Edgemont Neighborhood Coalition since 1993.

In his capacity as counsel for the Edgemont Neighborhood Coalition (an organization in a low-income African-American community in Dayton, Ohio), Mr. Jacobs has intervened and actively participated on its behalf in a wide range of telecommunications cases and dockets. These have included: the FCC and Joint Board Universal Service proceedings; the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) local competition guidelines docket; the PUCO minimum telephone services standards docket; the PUCO disconnection rule docket; and local telephone certification proceedings for fifteen new entrant companies in Ohio. Additionally, he was a key negotiator in crafting a settlement between Ameritech Ohio and consumer groups in 1994 in an Ameritech-Ohio alternative regulation case before the PUCO. This settlement provided \$2.2 million to open 14 community computing centers in low-income neighborhoods around Ohio — the first such funding settlement in the United States. This settlement also provided several millions of dollars for Ohio schools.

OMB Watch has been engaged in promoting the use of computers and telecommunications by community-based nonprofits since 1989, and we have worked with Mr. Jacobs in a variety of capacities since 1994. He has been an important source of information and insight for us and our colleagues both in Ohio and on the national level.

Finally, for over a year, Mr. Jacobs has chaired the Dayton Telecommunications Roundtable which brings together representatives of schools, libraries, local government, and social service agencies to analyze the changing telecommunications environment and jointly strategize ways to capture the opportunities created for Dayton communities.

1731 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009-1146
TELEPHONE: (202) 234-8494
FAX: (202) 234-8584

OMB WATCH

Jacobs' Support Letter
OMB Watch
Page 2 of 2

Mr. Jacobs, thus, not only is fully and deeply conversant with telecommunications law and regulations, but also deeply familiar with the needs of and constraints upon low-income and low-income minority communities. He has worked with regulators, local governments, community-based nonprofits and community information and access providers and understands the dynamics of these different parties in the universal service and access area. Indeed, Mr. Jacobs has become a recognized spokesman for the public interest in telecommunications technologies for community development and for low-income advocacy in telecommunications policy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Patrice McDermott
Information and Communications Policy Analyst

CC97-21



County of **GREENE** State of Missouri

GREENE COUNTY COMMISSION

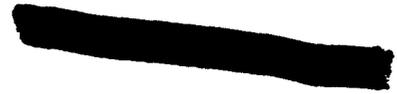
940 Boonville Avenue
SPRINGFIELD MO, 65802
(417) 868-4112

DAVID L. COONROD
Presiding Commissioner

DARRELL DECKER
Commissioner 1st District

JIM PAYNE
Commissioner 2nd District

August 15, 1997



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AUG 20 1997
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COUNSEL

Mr. Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Hundt:

The members of the Greene County Commission are writing in support of the Missouri Public Library Directors' nomination of Annie Busch for the Universal Service Administrative Company. Her leadership in the use of telecommunications services to improve library and information services to our region, as well as her experience with telecommunications issues state-wide, position her well to provide a balanced view of the Schools and Libraries Fund administration. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

David L. Coonrod
Presiding Commissioner

Darrell Decker
Commissioner District 1

Jim Payne
Commissioner District 2

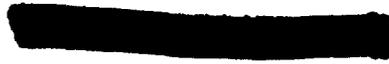
By fax 202-418-2801



WESTERN RURAL TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION Post Office Box 848 Santa Rosa, California 95402
telephone 707/538-7755 facsimile 707/538-0844 www.wrta.org

cc Docket 97-21

August 14, 1997



RECEIVED

AUG 20 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Pursuant to the recently released Federal Communications Commission Order (CC Dockets Nos. 97-21; 96-45), the Western Rural Telephone Association (WRTA) wishes to nominate its candidate for the NECA subsidiary, the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), through which it will administer certain portions of the federal universal service support mechanisms. Specifically, WRTA nominates Mr. Gerry Anderson, Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Circle, Montana as a candidate for the USAC Board of Directors.

As the General Manager of the Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative and pro-active industry advocate, Mr. Anderson's experience and credentials are impeccable and worthy of serious consideration as our industry's appointed representative for the USAC Board. Over the years, Gerry Anderson has demonstrated his sincere commitment to progressively advancing telecommunications and rural development. Through his leadership as a telephone executive and national industry proponent, Mr. Anderson has earned a distinguished reputation as a thoughtful, independent, and innovative thinker.

Mr. Anderson has also proven his interest in extending the cutting edge of technology to the rural communities he has worked so hard to serve. In the process, he has established himself as a superior financial expert and manager. This point can best be illustrated by the success which Mr. Anderson's initiatives have enjoyed.

As WRTA is comprised of approximately 150 small, independent, rural local telephone companies and cooperatives dispersed throughout the western United States, the strength and viability of our national universal service mechanism is of paramount importance to our association's membership. We strongly urge you to consider the candidacy of Gerry Anderson when selecting this newly established USAC Board.

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Page 2

We deeply appreciate your commitment and hard work on behalf of our national telecommunications infrastructure. Thank you for your time and consideration of this significant matter of interest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam J. Maselli". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and "M".

Sam J. Maselli
Executive Vice President

Enclosure

IDENTIFICATION

Name: Gerry Anderson

Current position: General Manager

Company name: Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

**Positions held and length
of time at each position:**

General Manager
Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Circle, Montana
Sept. 14, 1987 to present

Financial and Office Manager
Garden Valley Telephone Company
Erskine, Minnesota
February 1983 to September 1987

Accounting Supervisor
Garden Valley Telephone Company
Erskine, Minnesota
March 1981 to February 1983

Chief, Operations Branch, Southeast Area
Telephone Operations Field Representative
Texas and Louisiana
Rural Electrification Administration
Washington, DC
1977 to 1981

Public Utilities Specialist
Rural Electrification Administration
Huntsville, Texas
1972 to 1977

ACHIEVEMENTS

Achievements and contributions to Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative:

Gerry Anderson was hired by the Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative Board of Trustees in 1987 at a time when it faced several internal and external concerns requiring immediate action. He changed the cooperative's direction from short-term resolutions to long-term planned solutions.

As general manager, Mr. Anderson pointed Mid-Rivers in the direction of establishing itself as a technological leader in the telecommunications industry. This is accomplished despite Mid-Rivers' high-cost environment that includes a sparse population base throughout a vast service area.

By staying abreast of technological advances, Mid-Rivers is forging a new economic path into Local Exchange Carrier (LEC) revenue sources, such as Internet, cellular and long distance. With a reduction in traditional LEC revenues after the passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Mr. Anderson is directing Mid-Rivers' entry into new revenue streams.

Mr. Anderson praises the quality of Mid-Rivers' employees and admits that Mid-Rivers' accomplishments result from their work under his direction.

The following changes occurred at Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative during the past decade with Mr. Anderson as its general manager:

- With the acquisition of six additional exchanges from US West Communications, working access lines doubled from about 5,000 in 1986 to over 10,000 in 1996. In 1987, the total number of access lines were dropping. Today they are increasing.
- The size of the Mid-Rivers' service area grew to over 27,000 square miles, making the cooperative the largest in the contiguous United States. Mid-Rivers operates over 9,200 route miles of telephone line.
- Video services (cable TV, C-band and DBS) grew to 3,200 subscribers.
- Cellular service went on line for Mid-Rivers on Jan. 1, 1997 with eight new towers. By mid-year, Mid-Rivers had over 1,250 customers.
- Internet service began over two years ago. Today Mid-Rivers is closing in on 1,000 Internet customers.

- Mid-Rivers' net margin went from \$380,588 in 1986 to \$3,720,453 in 1996. Mid-Rivers' subsidiary, Cable & Communications Corporation, showed a 1986 net loss of \$185,747, while it enjoyed a 1996 profit of \$201,293. Long-term debt went up by only 61 percent in 10 years for Mid-Rivers, while equity rose from 34.7 to 50.1 percent for the decade.
- On Aug. 4, 1997, \$1.1 million in capital credit checks will be mailed to Mid-Rivers Cooperative members. Over the past decade, close to \$12 million in capital credits were returned to Mid-Rivers members.
- The number of Mid-Rivers employees went from over 100 in May, 1987 to 77 employees on Jan. 1, 1997. This occurred with an increase in facilities and revenues over the 10-year period.
- Mid-Rivers was the first telecommunications provider in Montana to provide a region-wide interactive television network between high schools, community colleges and four-year universities, which now provide college degree opportunities to eastern Montana residents.
- All 27 central offices have been upgraded to digital switch service, giving Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative members SS7 capabilities. Two new EWSD switches are currently being installed in 1997, enabling future ISDN capabilities for Mid-Rivers members.
- Outside plant facilities were upgraded with over 1,000 miles of fiber optic cable going into the ground.
- A new Defense Switch Network (DSN) lease in 1990 replaced a month-to-month lease with the U.S. Department of Defense's AUTOVON Network. An AT&T 5ESS switch, installed in 1991, tripled Mid-Rivers' DSN capacity. Mid-Rivers is the only telephone cooperative in the world providing DSN service. Mid-Rivers' fiber optic cable will link with North Dakota cable in 1997.
- Mid-Rivers established itself as one of the first Competitive Local Exchange Carriers (CLEC) to provide competitive telecommunications services to US West customers. In April 1997, Mid-Rivers signed up 90 percent of Terry, Montana residents, who will be given Mid-Rivers' telephone and cable television service in September 1997.
- Mid-Rivers developed joint ventures with neighboring rural telephone companies, creating entities such as Montana Advanced Information Network (MAIN), a long distance and data carrying organization that allows Mid-Rivers to become a long distance provider on Sept. 1, 1997.
- Mid-Rivers recently obtained Personal Communication Services (PCS) licenses and will provide PCS service in 1998.

Achievements and contributions to telecommunications industry: