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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

October 15, 1997

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

CC Docket 96-45  
Rural Task Force Nominations

Dear Mr. Caton:

The Rural Task Force now being organized under the auspices of the Universal Service Federal/State Joint Board will be working on issues of profound importance to all of USTA's member companies. In particular, USTA's Small Company Committee and Mid-Size Company Committee have each worked diligently over the past several weeks to solicit interest in the Task Force from among their respective constituencies. Each of these two USTA committees have discussed the numerous well-qualified people that have expressed interest in membership on the Task Force. The results of those deliberations are as follows.

In conjunction with the Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies (OPASTCO), USTA's Small Company Committee endorses the following nominees for the Task Force:

Category 1 - Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers Serving Rural Areas

- |                  |                                                                                           |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Evelyn Jerden    | Director, Revenue Requirements<br>Western New Mexico Telephone Company<br>Silver City, NM |
| Joan Mandeville  | Assistant Manager<br>Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative<br>Missoula, MT                      |
| Michael Pinguoch | Controllor<br>Great Plains Communications, Inc.<br>Blair, NE                              |
| David Schmidt    | General Manager<br>Heart of Iowa Telecommunications Cooperative<br>Union, IA              |

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Robert D. Williams    General Manager  
Oregon Farmers Mutual Telephone Company  
Oregon, MO

Category 5 - Insular Areas/Alaska

Jack H. Rhyner        President  
TelAlaska  
Anchorage, AK

USTA's Mid-Size Company Committee endorses the following nominees for the Task Force:

Category 1 - Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers Serving Rural Areas

Donn T. Wonnell      Vice President - Regulatory Affairs  
Pacific Telecom, Inc.  
Vancouver, WA

Dwayne G. Downtin   Director of Federal Regulatory  
Citizens Telecom  
Washington, DC

Category 5 - Insular Areas/Alaska

David L. Sharp        President/CEO  
Virgin Islands Telephone Company  
St. Thomas, VI

As an organization, USTA is confident that each and every one of the nine nominees listed above are imminently qualified to be Task Force members, and are dedicated to active participation on the Task Force if they are chosen to serve. It is a reflection of how important the work of the Task Force will be that there has been an unprecedented level of interest on this matter from among USTA's membership.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary McDermott  
Vice President - Legal & Regulatory Affairs

cc: attached service list

Appendix -- Service List

The Honorable Julia Johnson, State Chair  
Chairman  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.  
Gerald Gunter Building  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Sheryl Todd (plus 8 copies)  
Federal Communications Commission  
Accounting and Audits Division  
Universal Service Branch  
2100 M Street, N.W., Room 8611  
Washington, D.C. 20554

The Honorable David Baker  
Commissioner  
Georgia Public Service Commission  
244 Washington Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30334-5701

Rowland Curry  
Texas Public Utility Commission  
1701 North Congress Avenue  
P.O. Box 13326  
Austin, TX 78701

The Honorable Laska Schoenfelder  
Commissioner  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
State Capitol, 500 East Capitol Street  
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Ann Dean  
Maryland Public Service Commission  
16th Floor, 6 Paul Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202-6806

The Honorable Martha S. Hogerty  
Public Counsel  
Missouri Office of Public Counsel  
301 West High Street, Suite 250  
P.O. Box 7800  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Astrid Carlson  
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Charles Bolle  
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State Capitol, 500 East Capitol Street  
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Bridget Duff, State Staff Chair  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2450 Shumard Oak Blvd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0866

Phillip F. McClelland  
Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate  
1425 Strawberry Square  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Tiane Sommer  
Georgia Public Service Commission  
244 Washington Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30334-5701