

CC 96-45



FRAN ULMER  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
STATE OF ALASKA

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OCT 15 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

October 15, 1997

Secretary of the Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Astrid Carlson  
Federal Communications Commission  
2100 M Street, N.W.  
8th Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20554.

Dear Secretary of the Federal Communications Commission:

In response the Federal Communication Commission's recent public announcement of a Rural Task Force for the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service (the Joint Board), I am pleased to nominate three Alaskans who will bring rural experience and expertise to these positions.

For the Category 5 seat, I nominate Jack H. Rhyner.  
For the Category 6 seat, I nominate James M. Posey.  
For the Category 7 seat, I nominate Elstun Lauesen II.

BACKGROUND OF NOMINEES

Jack H. Rhyner - Category 5. Insular Area and/or Alaska

As President and General Manager of TelAlaska, Inc. d/b/a Interior Telephone Company, Jack H. Rhyner serves 22 insular, rural Alaska communities in the Aleutian Islands area of the state. A lifelong Alaskan, Mr. Rhyner has spent his entire working life providing telecommunications service to rural Alaska. Starting as a "combination-man" in the field throughout much of rural Alaska, Mr. Rhyner has worked for Interior Telephone Company since 1969. Mr. Rhyner is a fourteen-year member of the Alaska Telephone Association and was President of the association from 1991 to 1993. He is also a member of the Alaska Exchange Carriers Association, the Western Rural Telephone Association

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**Secretary of the Federal Communications Commission**

October 15, 1997

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and the National Telephone Cooperative Association. He received the 1993 Kagayyak Award for outstanding contribution to the advancement of Alaskan telephony. Mr. Rhyner has worked extensively with the Alaska Governor's office and with Alaska Senator Ted Stevens' office in developing telecommunications policy in the state. His expertise has been invaluable as the state has worked to understand the Federal Communications Commission's rulings on the 1996 Telecommunications Act.

**James M. Posey - Category 6. State Regulator**

James M. Posey holds the consumer seat of the five-member Alaska Public Utilities Commission (APUC). Commissioner Posey has had over 20 years of experience in managing and developing staff in the oil and gas exploration and production industry in his work for ARCO Alaska, Inc. He was also the Manager of the Department of Public Works for the Municipality of Anchorage from 1996 to 1997. He has extensive knowledge of permit compliance in local, state and federal government arenas. Commissioner Posey earned his law degree from the University of Kansas. He is a founding member of the American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE), and is a member of the national board for AABE. He is also a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners (NARUC).

**Elstun Lauesen II - Category 7. Other ILEC Participants, such as Representative of Native Americans**

Elstun Lauesen II is a 40-year resident of the state with impressive experience in telecommunications, economic development and strategic planning in Rural Alaska. He is Chippewa, of the Lake Superior Tribe. He has held various positions with the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC), including Director of the Office of Economic Development. TCC is a tribal consortium for approximately 42 Interior Alaskan villages providing advocacy and services in health, development, natural resources and self-governance. Mr. Lauesen was Statewide Economic Development Specialist with the Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs and supervised Economic Development Specialists in Juneau, Kodiak, Tok, and Nome. He received certification from the National Economic Development Council after completion of program. He started Lauesen & Company in 1993, a private consulting firm in strategic planning and economic development, primarily in Rural Alaska. Mr. Lauesen established Ursa Major Communications, Inc., a Native-owned start-up company engaged in wireless communications equipment sales and service and cellular phone rental. He was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer in August, 1997.

Secretary of the Federal Communications Commission

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I am pleased to make these nominations for the Rural Task Force, which I hope will become an integral part of the Commission's rulemaking process. As the FCC continues to shape the new landscape of telecommunications in our country, we must always strive to keep the needs of rural Americans foremost in our minds. Rural Americans have the most to gain from the remarkable advances in telecommunications we have seen in recent years, and also the most to lose if we fail to allow them access to these advancements. Each of these nominees brings intimate knowledge of the needs of Rural Alaska, combined with experience on a national level. Enclosed please find each nominee's resume and contact information. If you have any questions or if additional information is needed, please contact Andy Kline in my office. He may be reached at (907) 465-3557, [andy\\_kline@gov.state.ak.us](mailto:andy_kline@gov.state.ak.us). Thank you for your consideration of these nominees.

Sincerely,



Fran Ulmer  
Lieutenant Governor  
State of Alaska

Enclosures

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**JACK H RHYNER**  
**TelAlaska, Inc.**  
**2121 Abbott Road**  
**Anchorage, Alaska 99507**

**WORK HISTORY:**

TelAlaska, Inc. d/b/a Interior Telephone Company President and General Manager	1992 to Present 1983 - 1992
Interior Telephone Company Vice President and General Manager	1982 - 1983
Interior Telephone Company Vice President, Plant	1979 - 1982
Interior Telephone Company Plant Supervisor	1978 - 1979

Mr. Rhyner's apprenticeship as "combination-man" with Interior Telephone Company began in 1969 during Interior Telephone Company's first installation and cut-over of local telephone service at Fort Yukon, Alaska. From 1969 to 1978, he accumulated extensive experience in the installation and maintenance of telecommunications equipment in the field in all nine of Interior Telephone Company's certified local exchange areas.

**EDUCATION:**

United States Independent Telephone Association  
Management Development Program  
University of Kansas at Lawrence 1981

United States Independent Telephone Association  
Advanced Management Development Program  
University of Kansas at Lawrence 1981

National Telecommunications Excellence in Leadership Awards  
1988 - 1991

Numerous Telecommunications Industry Technical Schools  
1969 - 1987

**PROFESSIONAL DATA:**

<b>Alaska Telephone Association</b>	
President	1991 - 1993
1st Vice President	1989 - 1991
2nd Vice President	1987 - 1989

During his fourteen year tenure as an Alaska Telephone Association Board Member, Mr. Rhyner has participated on numerous ATA standing committees, including Revenue Requirements (Chairman 1989 - 1991), Part 36 Task Force (Chairman 1989 - 1991), Engineering and Planning (1986 - 1989), By-laws Committee (1988), Executive Committee (1987 - 1993), and Government Affairs Committee (Chairman 1993 - present).

1993 Kagayyak Award recipient deemed to have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of Alaskan Telephony and the Alaska Telephone Association.

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:**

**Alaska Exchange Carriers Association**  
 Board of Directors, 1990 - Present  
 Chairman, Rate Development Committee, 1990 - Present  
 Chairman, Nominating Committee, 1995

**Western Rural Telephone Association**  
 Board of Directors, 1987 - 1996  
 Co-Chairman, REA Legislative Committee, 1989 - 1991  
 Member, Western Alliance Committee, 1994 - Present  
 Member REA Legislative Committee, 1993 - Present  
 Member, By-laws Committee, 1992  
 Member, Budget Committee, 1991 - 1992

**National Telephone Cooperative Association**  
 Co-Chairman, Commercial Company Taskforce, 1987 - 1989  
 Member, Commercial Company Committee, 1992

**James Madison Posey**  
2311 Canary Court  
Anchorage, Alaska 99515

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

## **Objective**

To serve on the FCC Rural Task Force committee using proven communication and problem solving abilities.

## **Background Summary**

A Alaska Public Utilities Commissioner, appointed to the Consumers seat in January 1997, and appointed to the NARUC Telecommunication committee in August, 1997.

Over twenty (20) years of increasing responsibility and achievements successfully managing and developing staff in the oil and gas exploration and production industry. Expertise in areas of evaluating objectives; land management, operating agreement and permit negotiation; permit compliance and local, state and federal government relations.

## **Employment History**

<b>STATE OF ALASKA</b>	<b>January 1997 -</b>
<b>Commissioner, Alaska Public Utilities Commission</b>	
<b>MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE</b>	<b>August 1996 to Dec. 1996</b>
<b>Manager, Department of Public Works</b>	
<b>Building Safety Division</b>	
<b>ARCO ALASKA, INC.</b>	<b>1979 - 1996</b>
<b>Government Relations Consultant</b>	
<b>Manager Federal Government Relations</b>	
<b>Manager / Resource Issues</b>	
<b>Issues Advocacy Manager</b>	
<b>Land Manager</b>	
<b>District Landman</b>	
<b>Senior Landman</b>	
<b>Worldwide Energy Corporation</b>	<b>1977 - 1979</b>
<b>Attorney</b>	
<b>ARCO Oil &amp; Gas Company</b>	<b>1975 - 1977</b>
<b>Landman</b>	

Various university jobs in undergraduate  
and graduate schools 1970 - 1975

United States Air Force 1966 - 1970  
Missile Systems Analyst Technician

### Education

JD. University of Kansas Lawrence, Kansas 1975

BA. Wichita State University Wichita, Kansas 1972

**JAMES M. (JIM) POSEY- BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

**Jim was Born and raised in Beaumont, Texas. After a stint in the Air Force, he graduated from Wichita State University as a History major in 1972. He attended graduate school, University of Kansas, and received a Juris Doctor degree in 1975.**

**Jim worked as a Landman for ARCO in Dallas, Texas and Denver, Colorado from 1975 to 1977. He then practiced law as an oil and gas attorney for Worldwide Energy Corporation in Denver from 1977 to 1979. ARCO asked him to return in 1979 because of the big lease sale and unitization of the Kuparuk Field in Alaska, which was his special area of expertise. He has been in Alaska since that time; from 1981 to 1985 as a District Landman and Land Manager; Issues Advocacy Manager from 1985 to 1988; Resource Issues Manager from 1988 to 1989; and Federal Government Relations Manager, ARCO Alaska, Inc. 1989 to 1994.**

**In his 20 years in the industry, he has been active in land acquisition, oil and gas leasing, U. S. Corps of Engineers 404 Permitting, wetland advance identification, U. S. Fish and Wildlife mitigation policy, and local, state and federal Coastal Zone Management. His published work relating to industry activities in wetland areas appeared in the January/February 1986 EPA Journal, titled WETLANDS AND OIL: COEXISTENCE ON THE TUNDRA.**

**Jim and Sandi Posey have five children, all born in Alaska; 3 girls and 2 boys, ranging in age from 16 to 8 years old. The oldest is Elizabeth, then Cathryn, Joseph, David and Patricia. They attend the First Missionary Baptist Church in Anchorage.**

**Sandi Posey is by training a speech pathologist, one who analyzes and treats speech impediments, such as stuttering and those afflicted with cerebral palsy.**

**Jim was a board member and past Chairman of Alaska Junior Achievement; also a former board member of Anchorage Center for Families, which counsels and treats abused children and provides therapy for families. He is also a founding member of the American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE) and is currently a member of the national board for AABE, he participates in the Urban League's BEEP Program. Jim was an elected member of the Executive committee for the Alaska Democratic Party. Jim is a member of Board of directors for the California AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION.**

**Jim's hobbies are family oriented and include fishing and skiing.**

**As a Nation Builder**, Jim has been at the forefront for community action, youth program building and generating the wealth that his state and country depend upon for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

**As the Community Council President** for The Bayshore / Klatt area of Anchorage, Jim led the group during boom and bust periods that has highlighted the pattern of development in Alaska.

He served as Chairman of the Junior Achievement program for Alaska during the period that expanded the program into the rural areas of the Alaska which is where the largest number of **Alaska Natives** live.

Jim's work in the ARCO various land departments led to his participation and leadership in the formation, development and production projects for the largest and second largest oil producing fields in North America. The Prudhoe and Kuparuk Units on the North Slope of Alaska are part of the complex that produce 25% of the domestic oil production in the United States. The North Slope projects have created **thousands and thousands of jobs** from Florida to Alaska and from California to Maine. Furthermore, these Alaska oil & gas projects have directly sent billions and billions of dollars into the industrial design, fabrication, transportation and banking centers across the U.S.A.

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**ELSTON W. LAJESSEN II**  
P.O. Box 80827  
College, Alaska 99708  
(907) 456-5438 or 452-1841

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RESUME

**EMPLOYMENT  
HISTORY**

Director, Office of Economic Development 2/1/86 to Present  
Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc.  
201 1st Avenue, Fairbanks, AK 99701

Economic Development Planner 10/3/83 to 1/31/86  
Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc.  
201 1st Avenue, Fairbanks, AK 99701

Research Consultant & Writer 7/15/82 to 9/30/83  
Alaska Information & Data Services  
P.O. Box 80827, Fairbanks, AK 99708

Socioeconomic Officer 11/26/79 to 7/01/82  
Office of the Pipeline Coordinator  
101 Noble, Ste. 450, Fairbanks, AK 99701

Planner 5/01/78 to 11/15/79  
Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc.  
1st & Hall, Fairbanks, AK 99701

Research, Consultant & Writer 3/15/78 to 5/01/78  
Conferences & Institutes  
University of Alaska-Fairbanks  
Eielson Bldg. Rm. 118, Fairbanks 99701

Research, Consultant & Writer 10/15/77 to 3/15/78  
Alaska Information Service, Inc.  
Box 2183, Fairbanks, AK 99707

Construction, Laborer 7/75 to 9/77  
Laborer's Union, Local 942  
712 3rd Ave., Fairbanks, AK 99701

Field Counselor 11/74 to 6/75  
Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc.  
1st & Hall, Fairbanks, AK 99701

Co-coordinator/Pipeline Impact Project - Community Interviewer 5/74 to 9/74  
Alaska Research Group  
P.O. Box 80967, College, AK 99708

**OTHER  
EXPERIENCE**

Coordinator of Tutorial Project University of Alaska, Fairbanks  
Campus in 1970.  
Resident Counselor for Fairbanks Rehabilitation Association also  
in 1970.  
Prior experience included educational travel throughout Europe,  
North Africa and the United States which provided a variety of  
jobs including tutoring, booksales and handyman positions.

REFERENCES FURNISHED UPON REQUEST

**EDUCATION**

Graduate of Austin E. Lachrop High School  
Fairbanks, Alaska

Attended University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska

Attended Alaska Methodist University, Anchorage, Alaska

**PERSONAL  
INFORMATION**

Resident of Alaska for 33 years

Married. Two Children

Wife's Name: Beth Kaplan Lauesen

Minority Status: American Indian; Chippewa  
(Lake Superior Tribe)

Able and willing to travel throughout State as job duties  
require.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- (A) Partial list of completed research projects.
- (B) Detailed Work History

**RELEVANT  
TRAINING  
OR  
ACTIVITIES**

Industrial Development Training Seminar (1978)

Microcomputer hobbyist

Active in Alaskan public affairs

Student of Alaskan social and political history

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October 14, 1997

FCC MAIL ROOM

Mr. William F. Caton  
Acting Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Nomination for Rural Task Force (RTF), FCC 97J-1

Dear Secretary Caton:

This letter constitutes the nomination of David R. Conn, Associate General Counsel of McLeodUSA Incorporated, for a position on the Rural Task Force. Through its subsidiaries, McLeodUSA provides competitive local exchange services primarily to small business and residential customers in small and medium-sized cities and towns in Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Colorado, and Wyoming. Mr. Conn is being nominated in Category 2 (Rural Competitive Local Exchange Carriers). Pursuant to the terms of the Public Notice issued on September 17, 1997, in this matter, attached is a resume for Mr. Conn. We ask that his nomination be favorably considered.

Very truly yours,

Casey D. Mahon  
Senior Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary

enc.  
cc w/enc.: attached service list

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List ABOVE

## SERVICE LIST

Mr. William F. Caton  
Acting Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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

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

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

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

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

Astrid Carlson  
Federal Communications Commission  
2100 M Street, N.W., 8th Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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

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

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

Charles Bolle  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
State Capitol, 500 East Capitol Street  
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

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

# DAVID R. CONN

Office: McLeodUSA Incorporated  
McLeodUSA Technology Park  
6400 C Street SW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-3177  
Tel.: (319) 298-7055  
Fax: (319) 298-7901

Home: 6046 North 10th Street  
Marion, IA 52302  
Tel.: (319) 373-8468

## Current Position

Associate General Counsel, McLeodUSA Incorporated

## Employment Background

**October 1994 - Present:** Associate General Counsel, McLeodUSA Incorporated. McLeodUSA is a rapidly growing provider of local and long-distance telecommunications services. Its current focus is on small business and residential customers in second and third-tier markets in the Midwest and Rocky Mountain states. McLeodUSA, through its subsidiaries, provides both facilities-based and resold local services to customers in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Colorado, and Wyoming. In addition, McLeodUSA is in the process of installing its own fiber optic network, and publishes competitive telephone directories throughout the United States.

**July 1983 - October 1994:** Attorney with the Office of Consumer Advocate. The statutory duty of the Office of Consumer Advocate is to represent the interests of all Iowa consumers generally in proceedings before the Iowa Utilities Board, and in court proceedings involving utility regulatory matters. Fulfilling this duty requires preparation and oversight of all types of utility regulatory cases before administrative agencies and in court, including drafting pleadings, comments, testimony, and briefs; and conducting cross-examination of witnesses. Supervisory duties include responsibility for parts of both legal and clerical staffs.

**September 1978 - July 1983:** Assistant Commerce Counsel in the Iowa Office of Commerce Counsel. Duties included representing the public interest by appearing on behalf of the Commerce Commission staff in proceedings before the Commerce Commission, rendering legal advice to the Commission, and defending Commission decisions appealed to court.

**January 1976 - May 1978:** Teaching Assistant, University of Iowa Department of Political Science. Work involved teaching undergraduate sections in World Politics and Comparative Politics.

## Regulatory and Telecommunications Experience

Primary responsibility at McLeodUSA for participation in interconnection and resale proceedings, including analysis of cost studies and cross-examination of witnesses in evidentiary proceedings. Also responsible for participation in state and federal regulatory proceedings where the interests of McLeodUSA require such participation, and for initiating proceedings where necessary to resolve regulatory issues. Advice to management on regulatory and legal requirements imposed by federal and state law on the conduct of telecommunications business, both for McLeodUSA and relating to ILEC obligations under the law. Participates with marketing and other segments of the company to implement market expansion plans, both in the offering of new products and in entering new geographic areas.

Work in both the Office of Commerce Counsel and the Office of Consumer Advocate included all aspects of electric, natural gas, and telecommunications public utility regulation. Had overall responsibility for the legal aspects of the implementation of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) in Iowa, and participated in numerous rulemaking proceedings on that and other subjects. From 1984 to 1994, responsibilities emphasized telephone rate cases and other issues related to changes in the telecommunications industry, including issues related to deregulation, access charges, pricing principles, diversification, and introduction of new services. Analysis of issues involved detailed technical examination of various economic and financial data.

Presented Testimony before the U. S. House of Representatives, Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance, on behalf of the National Association of State Utility Consumer

Advocates (NASUCA), regarding the Telephone Consumer Privacy Protection Act of 1993, Washington, D.C., June 24, 1993.

Board of Directors, Competition Policy Institute (beginning July 1997)

Panelist, NASUCA Mid-Year Meeting, "Competition for Residential Local Exchange Customers", Charleston, SC, June 11, 1997

Member, Organizing Committee, and Panel Moderator, NASUCA conference "The Information Superhighway: Consumers at the Crossroads", Washington, D.C., April 21-22, 1994.

Member, Organizing Committee, and Panel Moderator, NASUCA conference "Telecommunications 2000: What's At Stake for Consumers in the Next Century?", Washington, D.C., April 22-23, 1993.

Member, Advisory Committee, "Study of the Role of the Telecommunications Industry in Iowa's Economic Development", October 1992.

Instructor, NARUC Advanced Regulatory Studies Program, Williamsburg, VA, February 16-21, 1992.

Panel Moderator, 1991 Annual Meeting of NASUCA, "Back to the Future?: Visions of RHC Entry Into Manufacturing and Information Services", San Antonio, TX, November 10-14, 1991.

Instructor, Continuing Legal Education program, "The Administrative Trial: Cross Examination of Expert Witnesses", Drake University Law School, Des Moines, IA, October 26, 1990.

Member, Steering Committee, NASUCA Conference on "Impacts on Consumers of Lifting the MFJ Restrictions," Washington, D.C., March 22-23, 1990.

Panelist, Nineteenth Annual Williamsburg Conference, "Alternative to Traditional Regulation: Options for Reform", Williamsburg, VA, December 7-9, 1987

Panelist, Second Annual Conference on Utility Regulation, "What Are the Future Directions For the State Regulation of Competitive Telecommunications Services?", Salt Lake City, Utah, February 9-12, 1986.

Publication: "A Critique of Holding Company Formations and Other Forms of Corporate Restructuring", *Alternatives to Traditional Regulation: Options for Reform* (Mich. State U. 1989).

Admitted to practice: Iowa (1978)

## **Educational Background**

**University of Iowa College of Law (May 1976 - August 1978):** Enrolled in the Accelerated Program at the College of Law, providing for the completion of coursework in two academic years and three summers. Iowa College of Law stresses the development of writing skills through instruction in small sections. Member of the Moot Court Board. Received J.D. with Honors in August, 1978.

**University of Iowa Graduate College (January 1976 - May 1978):** Enrolled in the Joint Degree Program with the College of Law/Graduate College, allowing for completion of M.A. in Political Science in conjunction with J.D. degree. Masters Program in the University of Iowa Political Science Department stressed the use of statistical analysis and computer techniques. Received M.A. in Political Science in May, 1978.

**University of Iowa College of Liberal Arts (August 1972 - December 1975):** Political Science major, with additional emphasis in economics. Political Science Honors Program. 1975-76 Fairall Scholarship in Political Science. 1975 James D. Robertson Scholarship from the University of Iowa Foundation (outstanding junior student in the social sciences). Phi Beta Kappa, 1975. B.A. with Highest Distinction and Honors in Political Science, December 1975.

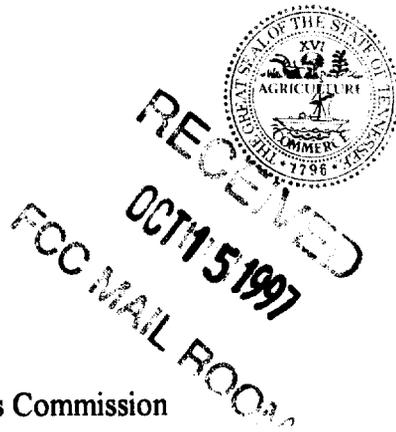
# TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Lynn Greer, Chairman  
Sara Kyle, Director  
Melvin Malone, Director

460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0505

October 14, 1997

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



DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Re: Universal Service Cost Model  
In the Matter of CC Docket No. 96-45.  
Expedited Petition For a One Hundred Twenty (120) Day Extension to File Tennessee  
Forward-Looking Economic Cost Study.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Attached to this letter is a Petition for a one hundred twenty (120) day extension of time to file the forward-looking economic cost study which we notified you that we would be filing on February 6, 1998. We would request that this be placed before the Commissioners as soon as possible.

In response to the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC") Report and Order issued May 8, 1997, In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, ("FCC Order") CC Docket No. 96-45, the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("Authority") filed a Letter of Notification and Order in this Docket on August 12, 1997, concerning the filing of a Tennessee forward-looking economic cost study.

At the August 5, 1997, Authority Conference, the Directors voted to inform the FCC, by the August 15, 1997, deadline, that the Authority planned to develop a Tennessee forward-looking economic cost study to be submitted to the FCC by February 6, 1998. The Directors acknowledged in that Order that there would need to be some coordination with the FCC in regards to the model and expressed a willingness for such cooperation. Additionally, the Directors noted that at a later date, the Authority may elect to adopt the FCC model, but did not want to foreclose the option of having the Authority submit a cost study by February 6, 1998, as requested by the FCC.

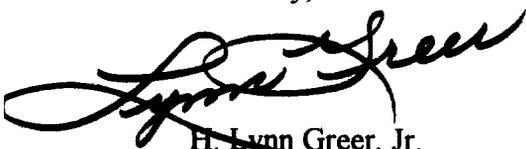
The Authority notes that it currently has the following dockets open: *Universal Service Generic Contested Case, Docket No. 97-00888; Generic Contested Case for the Purpose of Access Charge Reform, Docket No.97-00889 and Petition to Convene a Contested Case Proceeding to Establish Permanent Prices for Interconnection and Unbundled Network*

*Elements, Docket No.97-01262.* The Authority has various models under consideration in the aforementioned dockets. Through the continued hearing of the various dockets, the Authority believes that the appropriateness of the various models will be considered and that a model will be developed for purposes of calculating the federal support of universal service.

The Authority is working diligently on the forward-looking economic cost study. Due to the time and staff resources needed from a small state regulatory agency, such as ours, to develop the models required by the previously mentioned dockets, it appears highly unlikely that we will be able to complete the interim work necessary on the Tennessee Forward-Looking Cost Study under CC Docket No. 96-45, by the February 6, 1998, deadline. We would respectfully request that the Federal Communications Commission grant us an extension of time to file the Tennessee Forward-Looking Economic Cost Study. The Authority believes that a period of one hundred twenty (120) days after February 6, 1998, is adequate.

We would appreciate your consideration in expediting this request.

Sincerely,



H. Lynn Greer, Jr.  
Chairman



Sara Kyle  
Director



Melvin J. Malone  
Director

Before the  
**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**  
Washington, D.C.

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In the Matter of )  
Federal and State Joint Board on ) CC DOCKET NO. 96-45  
Universal Service )

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**EXPEDITED PETITION FOR EXTENSION REGARDING CONSTRUCTION OF  
FORWARD-LOOKING ECONOMIC COST STUDY FOR UNIVERSAL SERVICE DUE  
FEBRUARY 6, 1998**

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Now comes the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("Authority"), and Petitions the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") for an expedited one hundred twenty (120) day extension of time to file its forward-looking economic cost study. In response to the FCC Report and Order issued May 8, 1997, In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, ("FCC Order") CC Docket No. 96-45, the Authority filed a Letter of Notification and Order in this Docket on August 12, 1997, concerning the filing of a Tennessee forward-looking economic cost study. A copy of this Letter of Notification and Order is attached as Exhibit 1 to this Petition. The FCC Order discussed the determination of forward-looking economic cost studies for calculating federal universal service support. In paragraph 248 of the FCC Order it states:

Therefore, as the basis for calculating federal universal support in their states, we will use forward-looking economic cost studies conducted by state commissions that choose to submit such cost studies to determine universal support. As discussed further below, we today adopt criteria appropriate for determining federal universal service support to guide the states as they conduct those studies. We ask the states to elect, by August 15, 1997, whether they will conduct their own forward-looking economic cost studies. States that elect to conduct such studies should file them with the Commission on or before February 6, 1998.

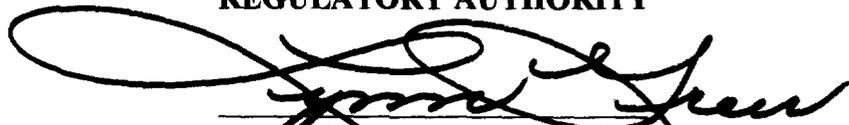
At the August 5, 1997, Authority Conference, the Directors unanimously voted to notify the FCC, by the August 15, 1997, deadline, that the Authority planned to develop a Tennessee forward-looking economic cost study to be submitted to the FCC by February 6, 1998. The Directors acknowledged in that Order that there would need to be some coordination with the FCC in regards to the study and expressed a willingness for such cooperation.

The Authority notes that it currently has the following dockets open: *Universal Service Generic Contested Case, Docket No. 97-00888; Generic Contested Case for the Purpose of Access Charge Reform, Docket No. 97-00889 and Petition to Convene a Contested Case Proceeding to Establish Permanent Prices for Interconnection and Unbundled Network Elements, Docket No. 97-01262.* The Authority has various cost models under consideration in the aforementioned dockets. Through the continued hearing of the various dockets, the Authority believes that the appropriateness of the various models will be considered and that a model may be developed for purposes of calculating the federal support of universal service.

The Authority is working diligently on the forward-looking economic cost study. Due to the time and staff resources needed from a small state regulatory agency, such as ours, to develop the models required by the previously mentioned dockets, it appears highly unlikely that we will be able to complete the interim work necessary on the Tennessee Forward-Looking Cost Study under CC Docket No. 96-45, by the February 6, 1998, deadline.

**WHEREFORE:** The Authority respectfully petitions that the Federal Communications Commission grant the Authority, on an expedited basis, an extension of time to file the Tennessee Forward-Looking Economic Cost Study. The Authority believes that a period of one hundred twenty (120) days after February 6, 1998, is adequate.

**THE TENNESSEE  
REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRMAN

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DIRECTOR

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DIRECTOR

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

# TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Lynn Greer, Chairman  
Sara Kyle, Director  
Melvin Malone, Director



August 12, 1997

RECEIVED  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0505

OCT 15 1997

EXHIBIT ROOM

Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Room 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**RE: Universal Service - Cost Model**  
**In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service**  
**CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 97-160**

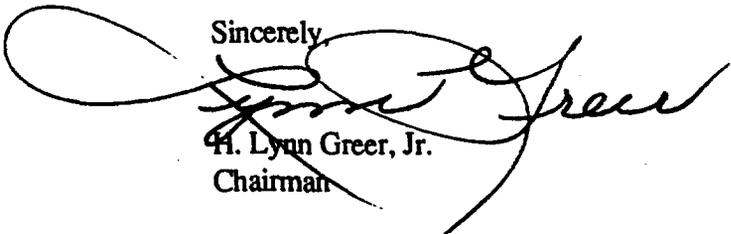
I am writing in response to the above referenced Report and Order issued May 8, 1997. In the Order at Paragraph 248, the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") requested that the States notify the FCC if they were going to elect to conduct their own cost studies for calculating federal universal support. The Order further requested that such studies be submitted to the FCC by February 6, 1998.

Attached is an Order of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("TRA") setting forth that at this time, the TRA is electing to develop its own cost studies to be submitted to the FCC in February. As the TRA Order states, we currently are processing three dockets in which cost models will be developed and relied upon. Therefore, at this time we see some benefit in considering such models for purposes of federal funding of universal service.

We recognize that any model submitted by the TRA will need to meet the Commission's criteria. To that end, the TRA expects that there will be cooperation between our staff and the staff of the FCC in the development of both the Tennessee and FCC cost study models. Consequently, at this time, we would expect that any model submitted by the TRA will meet the FCC's criteria.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please let us know.

Sincerely,

  
Lynn Greer, Jr.  
Chairman

cc: Director Sara Kyle  
Director Melvin Malone  
Sheryl Todd, FCC Accounting & Audits Div.  
Austin Lyons

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

August 13, 1997

RECEIVED  
OCT 15 1997  
FCC MAIL ROOM

In Re: )  
)  
Universal Service Generic )  
Contested Case )  
)

Docket No. 97- 00888

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ORDER REGARDING COST MODEL FOR  
UNIVERSAL SERVICE

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This matter comes before the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("Authority") in response to the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC") Report and Order issued May 8, 1997, In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, ("FCC Order") CC Docket No. 96-45. In response to the Order, the Authority finds as follows:

1. The FCC Order discussed the determination of forward-looking economic cost studies for calculating federal universal service support. In Paragraph 248, the FCC Order states:

Therefore, as the basis for calculating federal universal support in their states, we will use forward-looking economic cost studies conducted by state commissions that choose to submit such cost studies to determine universal support. As discussed further below, we today adopt criteria appropriate for determining federal universal service support to guide the states as they conduct those studies. We ask the states to elect, by August 15, 1997, whether they will conduct their own forward-looking economic cost studies. States that elect to conduct such studies should file them with the Commission on or before February 6, 1998.

2. The Authority notes that it currently has the following dockets open: *Universal Service Generic Contested Case, Docket No. 97-00888; Petition of AT&T Communications of the South Central States, Inc., For the Purpose of Convening a Generic Contested Case for the Purpose of Access Charge Reform, Docket No. 97-00889; and Petition to Convene a Contested Case Proceeding to Establish Permanent Prices for Interconnection and Unbundled Network Elements, Docket No. 97-01262.*

3. The Authority expects that various models will be considered in the aforementioned dockets. Through the processing of the various dockets, the Authority believes that the appropriateness of the various models will be considered and that a model will be developed for purposes of calculating the federal support of universal service.

4. Therefore, at the August 5, 1997, Conference, the Directors voted to inform the FCC that, at this time, the Authority plans to develop a model to be submitted to the FCC by February 6, 1998. The Directors expect that there will be cooperation between the Authority Staff and the FCC with regard to the development of both the Tennessee and FCC cost study models.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

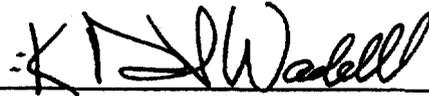
1. The Authority, at this time, plans to submit its own cost study model to the FCC by February 6, 1998.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRMAN

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DIRECTOR

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DIRECTOR

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL



CC96-45

RECEIVED  
OCT 15 1997  
FCC MAIL ROOM

October 14, 1997

Secretary of the Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Nomination to the Rural Task Force

On behalf of the incumbent local exchange carriers in the state of Texas, we, Texas Statewide Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (TSTCI) (membership list attached) and the Texas Telephone Association (TTA) (membership list attached) submit the name of Mr. Gary Gilmer, President and General Manager of Southwest Texas Telephone Company in nomination for your consideration of the Category 1 position to the Rural Task Force (RTF).

As requested in the Public Notice, FCC 97J-1 released September 17, 1997, a copy of Mr. Gilmer's professional resume is attached to the letter of nomination. In addition to the information provided in his resume, Mr. Gilmer is also an active participant in both Associations. Mr. Gilmer's contact information is as follows:

Mr. Gary Gilmer, President and General Manager  
Southwest Texas Telephone Company  
P.O. Box 128  
Rock Springs, Texas 7880-0128  
Voice: (210) 683-2111  
Facsimile: (210) 683-4190  
E-Mail: mail@swtexas.com

Southwest Texas Telephone Company serves 3,654 access lines in primarily rural, high cost areas of Texas. As General Manager of this small, rural company, Mr. Gilmer is intimately aware and involved in addressing "the issues unique to rural carriers".

No. of Copies rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
List ASODE \_\_\_\_\_

October 14, 1997

We, as the Association representatives of the entire incumbent local exchange carrier industry in the state of Texas, appreciate your consideration of our nomination of Mr. Gary Gilmer to a position on the Rural Task Force.

If you have any questions or desire additional information about our nomination, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

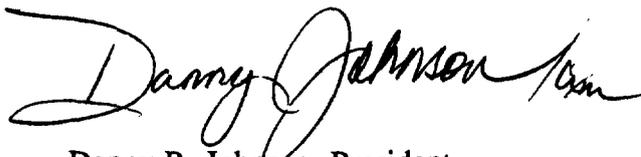
Respectfully submitted,

TEXAS TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION

TEXAS STATEWIDE TELEPHONE COOP. INC



Tim Raven, President  
400 W. 15th Street  
Suite 1005  
Austin, Texas 78701-1647  
Voice: (512) 472-1183  
Facsimile: (512) 472-1293  
E-Mail: [tta@tta.org](mailto:tta@tta.org)



Danny R. Johnson, President  
Mid-Plains Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
P.O. Box 300  
Tulia, Texas 79088-0300  
Voice: (806) 995-3572  
Facsimile: (806) 668-4444  
E-Mail: [tstci@tstci.org](mailto:tstci@tstci.org)

cc: Astrid Carlson, FCC  
Mr. Gary Gilmer, Southwest Texas Telephone Company  
Service List (certificate of service attached)

## 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

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

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

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

Charles Bolle  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
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

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

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

Ann Dean  
Maryland Public Service Commission