

**GARY C. GILMER  
P. O. BOX 738  
ROCKSPRINGS, TEXAS 78880**

**EMPLOYMENT:**

President, Southwest Texas Telephone Company

1990-1992 Full-time Student, Fuqua School of Business, Duke University

1980-1990 Partner, Gilmer & Gilmer, Attorneys at Law  
(Edwards County Attorney 1983-1988)

**CURRENT OFFICES, BOARDS:**

President, Director - Southwest Texas Telephone Company  
President, Director - Southwest Texas Communications, Inc.  
Vice-Chairman, Director - Peoples State Bank  
General Counsel, Director - UDP, Inc.  
Director - Texas Exchange Carrier Assn.  
Session Member - First Presbyterian Church  
Director - The Gilmer Foundation, Inc.  
Member - Austin College Alumni Board

**EDUCATION:**

MacArthur High School, San Antonio, Texas, 1973  
Austin College, Sherman, Texas, B.A., 1977  
Baylor University School of Law, Waco, Texas, J.D., 1980  
Fuqua School of Business, Duke University, Durham, NC, M.B.A., 1992

**PERSONAL:**

Married to Gwen Gilmer, 16 years  
Commercial Pilot, Glider, with Private Multi-Engine Privileges

## TEXAS STATEWIDE TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.

Big Bend Telephone Company, Inc.  
Brazos Telecommunications, Inc.  
Brazos Telephone Coop., Inc.  
Cameron Telephone Company  
Cap Rock Telephone Coop., Inc.  
Central Texas Telephone Coop., Inc.  
Coleman County Telephone Coop., Inc.  
Colorado Valley Telephone Coop., Inc.  
Comanche County Telephone Company, Inc.  
Community Telephone Company, Inc.  
Cumby Telephone Coop., Inc.  
Dell Telephone Coop., Inc.  
E.N.M.R. Telephone Coop., Inc.  
Eastex Telephone Coop., Inc.  
Electra Telephone Company  
Etex Telephone Coop., Inc.  
Five Area Telephone Coop., Inc.  
Ganado Telephone Company, Inc.  
Guadalupe Valley Telephone Coop., Inc.  
La Ward Telephone Exchange, Inc.  
Lake Livingston Telephone Company  
Lipan Telephone Company  
Livingston Telephone Company  
Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Coop., Inc.  
Muenster Telephone Corp. of Texas  
North Texas Telephone Company  
Panhandle Telephone Coop., Inc.  
Peoples Telephone Coop., Inc.  
Riviera Telephone Company, Inc.  
Santa Rosa Telephone Coop., Inc.  
South Plains Telephone Coop., Inc.  
Southwest Texas Telephone Company  
Tatum Telephone Company  
Taylor Telephone Coop., Inc.  
Valley Telephone Coop., Inc.  
Wes-Tex Telephone Coop., Inc.  
West Texas Rural Tel. Coop., Inc.  
West Plains Telecommunications, Inc.  
XIT Rural Telephone Coop., Inc.

## **Texas Telephone Association Member Companies**

Alenco Communications, Inc.  
ALLTEL Sugar Land Telephone  
Big Bend Telephone Co., Inc.  
Blossom Telephone Co., Inc.  
Border to Border Communications  
Brazoria Telephone Co.  
Brazos Telecommunications, Inc.  
Brazos Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
Cameron Telephone Co.  
Cap Rock Telephone Co.  
Century Telephone of Lake Dallas, Inc.  
Century Telephone of Port Aransas, Inc.  
Century Telephone of San Marcos, Inc.  
Coleman County Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
Colorado Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
Comanche County Telephone Co, Inc.  
Community Telephone Co., Inc.  
Cumby Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
Dell Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
E.N.M.R. Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
Eastex Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
Electra Telephone Co.  
Etex Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
Five Area Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
Fort Bend Telephone Co.  
GTE  
Ganado Telephone Co., Inc.  
Guadalupe Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
Industry Telephone Co.  
Kerrville Telephone Co., Inc  
La Ward Telephone Exchange, Inc.  
Lake Livingston Telephone Co.  
Leaco Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
Lipan Telephone Co.  
Livingston Telephone Co.  
Lufkin-Conroe Telephone Exchange, Inc.  
Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
Muenster Telephone Corp. of Texas  
North Texas Telephone Co.  
Panhandle Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
Peoples Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
Poka Lambro Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
Riviera Telephone Co., Inc.  
Santa Rosa Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
South Plains Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
Southwest Arkansas Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
Southwest Texas Telephone Co.  
Southwestern Bell Telephone Co.  
Sprint/United  
Tatum Telephone Co.  
Taylor Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
Texas ALLTEL, Inc.  
Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
West Plains Telecommunications, Inc.  
West Texas Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc  
XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.



TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR

IOWA UTILITIES BOARD  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

October 13, 1997

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

RECEIVED  
OCT 15 1997  
FCC MAIL ROOM

Dear Mr. Caton:

RE: Nomination for Rural Task Force—Rural Carrier Representative  
Docket CC-96-45

The Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) commends the FCC and the Federal-State Joint Board for its establishment of a Rural Task Force (RTF) to address universal service issues. The decision to include broad industry representation, which will be comprised of rural carriers and remote and insular areas' representatives is very significant to the United States' geography and economy. It is especially important for Iowa, a predominately rural state, that an individual be designated to deal with rural concerns. Iowa has, in fact, more than 150 rural independent telephone companies.

Therefore, in response to the FCC's solicitation for RTF membership nominations, the IUB wishes to nominate an individual for Category 1. Category 1 includes incumbent local exchange carriers serving rural areas. It is our recommendation that David Schmidt represent this "Category". Mr. Schmidt has a host of experience in both government and company telecommunications operations. He is currently the manager of both Heart of Iowa Telephone Cooperative and Laurel Telephone Company. He has served on several boards representing the telephone industry, including: 1) former Board member and President of RIITA (Rural Iowa Independent Telephone Association); 2) former Board member and President of NTCA (National Telecommunications Cooperative Association; and 3) former member of the Government Affairs Committee for NTCA. David currently serves as a Board member on the NECA Telecommunications Relay Service Advisory Council and as Chairman of the Iowa Telecommunications Association's Regulatory Committee. Active in his community and aware of rural telephone company costs, he would bring significant input to the RTF in its mission. David Schmidt's resume is also attached to this letter for your review.

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Mr. William F. Canton  
October 13, 1997  
Page 2

We recognize the difficult issues that universal service and competition face in the changing telecommunications environment, and we believe that David can assist you with those issues. We appreciate your consideration regarding our nomination for David Schmidt to the RTF and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Allan T. Thoms  
Chairman

mjs

Attachment

cc: David Schmidt, Heart of Iowa Telephone Cooperative  
Kent Jerome, Iowa Telecommunications Association  
Federal-State Joint Board Service List  
Astrid Carlson, FCC

**David L. Schmidt**

**Education:** Graduated Kennewick High School 1960  
Northern Virginia Community College 1977-1979 16 quarter credit hours  
Several Military Schools and courses (teletype, cryptography, leadership, computers, equal employment opportunity, and accounting)

**Job History:** Marine Corps 1960-1980 (Retired)  
Fisher Controls 1980-1982  
Heart of Iowa Telephone Cooperative - 1982 - Manager 1983-present  
Laurel Telephone Company - Manager 1991-present

**Industry Activities:** Former Board Member of Rural Iowa Independent Telephone Association  
Former President of Rural Iowa Independent Telephone Association  
Former member of Government Affairs Committee of NTCA  
Board Member of NTCA  
Former President of NTCA  
Member of Telecommunications Relay Service Advisory Council for NECA  
Chairman of Iowa Telecommunications Association Regulatory Committee

**Other Activities:** Member of the South Hardin Betterment Association  
Board of Director of Security State Bank  
Former member of the Union-Whitten School Board



# Scio Mutual Telephone Association

38982 S.E. Second Avenue • Post Office Box 1100 • Scio, Oregon 97374-1100 • (503) 394-3366 • FAX (503) 394-3999

CA 96-45

October 14, 1997

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OCT 15 1997

FCC MAIL ROOM

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

William Caton  
Secretary of the FCC  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Caton:

We are writing to express our support for Bob Schoonmaker to represent incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs-Category 1) on the Rural Task Force (RTF) which is being established by the Federal - State Joint Board on Universal Service.

Mr. Schoonmaker is well qualified to serve on the RTF. Mr. Schoonmaker is vice-president of GVNW Inc./Management, a firm specializing in regulatory and financial consulting services for rural ILECs. He has more than 20 years of experience in the telecommunications industry. Prior to his employment by GVNW, Mr. Schoonmaker was employed by GTE Corporation. He testified before the Joint Board in 1996, at their request, regarding USF issues. In January 1997, Mr. Schoonmaker participated in the FCC's Proxy Cost Model Workshops as a representative of the Rural Coalition. He holds a Masters of Accountancy degree from Brigham Young University, is knowledgeable about universal service issues, and is well known throughout the ILEC industry.

Scio Mutual Telephone Association recognizes the challenge faced by regulators in developing a forward-looking cost model, which will work for rural areas. We applaud the Joint Board's creation of the RTF and we look forward to providing input into the process as appropriate. We urge you to consider highly qualified individuals, such as Bob Schoonmaker, to serve on the RTF to ensure that the issues unique to rural carriers are full examined.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Shelton  
Executive Vice President &  
General Manager

RMS/las

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0

C: Attached Service List



**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. Hogarty  
Public Counsel  
Missouri Office of Public Counsel  
301 West High St., Suite 250  
P.O. Box 7800  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Charles Bolle  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
State Capitol, 500 East Capitol St.  
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 St., 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  
16th Floor, 6 Paul Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202-6806

H. Russell Frisby, Jr. \*  
Chairman, Maryland Public Service  
Commission  
16th Floor, 6 Paul Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202-6806

\* Not identified on Service List but recently appointed to the Joint Board.

CC96-45

MILLRY TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.

P.O. Box 45  
Millry, Alabama 36558  
(334) 846-2911

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October 14, 1997

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OCT 15 1997

FCC MAIL ROOM

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

Re: Rural Task Force (RTF) Category 1 Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC)

To the Secretary:

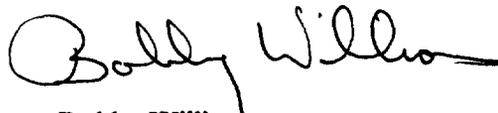
As General Manager of Millry Telephone Company, I would like to place in nomination for the Rural Task Force ILEC Category 1 position Mr. Clint Frederick, CPA, of Frederick & Warinner, LLC.

Millry Telephone Company serves 6,300 access lines in Washington and Choctaw counties in Alabama, with annual revenues of approximately eight million dollars.

Our relationship with Frederick & Warinner has developed over the last three years. We selected his firm after an intense search for a qualified consulting group. Mr. Frederick has a long history in the telecommunications industry and his continued leadership guides company's like ours toward the future with continued success.

Enclosed please find a copy of Mr. Frederick's resume. I believe that because of his experience and understanding of rural telephony Clint Frederick will make an invaluable contribution to the RTF.

Sincerely,



Bobby Williams  
General Manager  
Millry Telephone Company, Inc.

Enclosure: Clint Frederick, CPA Resume

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## **Clint Frederick, CPA**

Principal

*Founder and managing principal, Mr. Frederick's public utility experience began in 1968 while engaged in the sale of Alaska Communications System. With previous firm, partner in charge, regulatory services division, telecommunications industry with ultimate client responsibility for client services, including audit, rate case, cost separation studies, tariff design, tax and management consultation services concerning a variety of issues, i.e., company acquisition, sale of companies, new services feasibility, nonregulated activities, and contract negotiation. Presented testimony and sponsored exhibits in approximately sixty formal regulatory proceedings. Jurisdictions include: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, Minnesota, Nebraska, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Rhode Island, California, South Dakota, Vermont, Federal Court, Interstate Commerce Commission, and Federal Communications Commission.*

## **Business Experience**

**Frederick & Warinner, L.L.C. (1988 to Present)**

Certified Public Accountants

Founder and Managing Principal

**Dress Dunn & Company (1983 to 1988)**

Partner and Public Utility Consultant

**Troupe Kehoe Whiteaker & Kent (1987 to 1983)**

Certified Public Accountants

Partner and Partner in Charge of Telecommunication Industry Services

**Sermes Chandler Schupp & Connealy (1985 to 1987)**

Certified Public Accountants

Staff Accountant

## **Education**

**Kansas State College**

Bachelor of Science and Business Administration in Accounting, 1965

## **Licensed CPA**

State of Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Minnesota, California, Nebraska, Colorado, and Arizona

## **Professional Memberships**

American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

Missouri Society of Certified Public Accountants

Past Chairman, MSCPA Litigation Services Committee

Founding Board Member and Treasurer, American World War II Orphans Network (A non-profit charitable organization)

## **Clint Frederick, CPA**

Page Two

### **Presentations**

- "Ready - Set - Go" , TANE, 1997
- "Competition in the Local Loop", SITA, 1994
- "Operator Services", SITA, 1992
- "Keeping It In The Family", OPASTCO, 1991
- "Keeping It In The Family", NTCA, 1990
- "Keeping It In The Family", Kansas Telco's, 1990.
- "The New Part 32 USOA - Is It So Bad?", Western Rural Telephone Association, 1987.
- "Profit Is Not a Four Letter Word", OPASTCO, January 1986.
- "Federal Access Charges", Alaska Telephone Association, January 1984.
- "Federal Access Charges", Association of Minnesota Utility Companies, April 1983.
- "State Access Charges", Western Rural Telephone Association, August 1983.
- "The Joint Board Proceeding", SITA, 1983.
- "Creation of FCC Docket 80-286", OPASTCO, June 1980.
- "Point - Counterpoint", Address on Local Rate Design, SITA, 1979.
- "Effect of New Average Toll Schedules", SITA, 1978.

### **Publications**

"A Plan To Replace the Subscriber Plant Factor in Telephone Cost Separations", Public Utilities Fortnightly, October 1982.



October 3, 1997

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Secretary of the  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 "M" Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Astrid Carlson  
Federal Communications Commission  
2100 "M" Street NW 8th Floor  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Nomination for Membership on Rural Task Force  
CC Docket 96-45

Please accept my nomination of Mr. Jack H. Rhyner, President/General Manager of TelAlaska, Inc. to the Rural Task Force (RTF) established by the Federal-State Joint Board in CC Docket 96-45

Mr. Rhyner's qualifications for serving as a member of the RTF are outstanding. Born in Alaska, he has spent his entire working life in the telecommunications business serving rural areas. His experience ranges from building and maintaining technical facilities to serving as the CEO for two incumbent local exchange carriers serving rural areas. His knowledge of the physical requirements to engineer and construct telecommunications facilities in rural locations combined with his understanding of complex economic issues applied to the

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ratemaking process makes him an ideal candidate for the RTF.

In his current capacity as President and General Manager of TelAlaska, Inc., a holding company for Interior Telephone Company and Mukluk Telephone Company, he has gained a unique insight regarding the difficulties in providing service to 22 rural insular Alaskan communities which include some of the most remote, rugged and culturally diverse geographic areas in the country.

In addition to his hands on experience, he has extensive experience serving on many committees and organizations that represent independent telephone companies. For the past 14 years he has served on the Board of directors of the Alaska Telephone Association, including a term as its President. In addition, he has held positions on the Board of the Alaska Exchange Carriers Association, and has been a Board member of the Western Rural Telephone association.

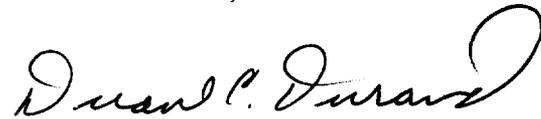
As Chairman of the Rate Development Committee of the Alaska Exchange Carriers Association he has direct insight regarding the collection and collation of data used for the development of the Alaska intrastate access charge rates.

As Chairman of the Government affairs Committee of the Alaska Telephone Association he has spent considerable time and effort working directly with the Alaska delegation in Washington DC, and was actively involved in the development of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

I have known Mr. Rhyner personally for the 28 years he has been involved in rural telecommunications issues in Alaska and believe there is no better representative from Alaska to serve on the RTF. I strongly urge the committee to appoint Mr. Rhyner to the RTF

Very truly yours,

BRISTOL BAY TELEPHONE  
COOPERATIVE, INC.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Duane C. Durand". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Duane C. Durand  
General Manager

CC96-45



# CHURCHILL COUNTY TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH SYSTEM

P.O. BOX 1390 • 50 WEST WILLIAMS AVENUE • FALLON, NEVADA 89407-1390

(702) 423-7171

"THE ONLY COUNTY OWNED TELEPHONE SYSTEM"

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October 10, 1997

**OCT 15 1997**

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**FCC MAIL ROOM**

Secretary of the FCC  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Secretary of the FCC:

I am writing to express my support for Bob Schoonmaker to represent incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs-Category1) on the Rural Task Force (RTF) which is being established by the Federal - State Joint Board on Universal Service.

Mr. Schoonmaker is well qualified to serve on the RFT. Mr. Schoonmaker is Vice President of GVNW Inc./Management, a firm specializing in regulatory and financial consulting services for rural ILECs. He has more than 20 years of experience in the telecommunications industry. Prior to his employment by GVNW, Mr. Schoonmaker was employed by GTE Corporation. He testified before the Joint Board in 1996, at their request, regarding USF issues. In January, 1997, Mr. Schoonmaker participated in the FCC's Proxy Cost Model Workshops as a representative of the Rural Coalition. He holds a Masters of Accountancy degree from Brigham Young University, is knowledgeable about universal service issues, and is well known throughout the ILEC industry.

Churchill County Telephone System recognizes the challenge faced by regulators in developing a forward-looking cost model which will work for rural areas. We applaud the Joint Board's creation of the RTF and we look forward to providing input into the process as appropriate. We urge you to consider highly qualified individuals, such as Bob Schoonmaker, to serve on the RTF to ensure that the issues unique to rural carriers are fully examined.

Sincerely,

Donald A Mello  
General Manager

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CC96-45

MAIL ROOM

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October 9, 1997

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Secretary of the FCC  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to express my support for Bob Schoonmaker to represent incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs-Category 1) on the Rural Task Force (RTF) which is being established by the Federal - State Joint Board on Universal Service.

Mr. Schoonmaker is well qualified to serve on the RTF. Mr. Schoonmaker is Vice-President of GVNW Inc./Management, a firm specializing in regulatory and financial consulting services for rural ILECs. He has more than 20 years of experience in the telecommunications industry. Prior to his employment by GVNW, Mr. Schoonmaker was employed by GTE Corporation. He testified before the Joint Board in 1996, at their request, regarding USF issues. In January, 1997, Mr. Schoonmaker participated in the FCC's Proxy Cost Model Workshops as a representative of the Rural Coalition. He holds a Masters of Accountancy degree from Brigham Young University, is knowledgeable about universal service issues, and is well known throughout the ILEC industry.

Hardy Telecommunications recognizes the challenge faced by regulators in developing a forward-looking cost model which will work for rural areas. We applaud the Joint Board's creation of the RTF and we look forward to providing input into the process as appropriate. We urge you to consider highly qualified individuals, such as Bob Schoonmaker, to serve on the RTF to ensure that the issues unique to rural carriers are fully examined.

Sincerely,



Mary G. Mongold  
Assistant Manager

cc: Attached Service List

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## 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. Hogarty  
Public Counsel  
Missouri Office of Public Counsel  
301 West High St., Suite 250  
P.O. Box 7800  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Charles Bolle  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
State Capitol, 500 East Capitol St.  
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 St., 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  
16th Floor, 6 Paul Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202-6806

H. Russell Frisby, Jr.  
Chairman, Maryland Public Service  
Commission  
16th Floor, 6 Paul Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202-6806

CC96-45

# Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 1230 • Havre, Montana 59501 • Phone (406) 265-7807

Fax 406-265-7801

October 9, 1997

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Secretary of the FCC  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Astrid Carlson, FCC  
2100 M Street, NW, 8th Floor  
Washington, DC 20554

To the Secretary of the FCC:  
To Astrid Carlson, FCC:

I am writing to express my support for Bob Schoonmaker to represent incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs-Category 1) on the Rural Task Force (RTF) which is being established by the Federal - State Joint Board on Universal Service.

Mr. Schoonmaker is well qualified to serve on the RTF. Mr. Schoonmaker is Vice-President of GVNW Inc./Management, a firm specializing in regulatory and financial consulting services for rural ILECs. He has more than 20 years of experience in the telecommunications industry. Prior to his employment by GVNW, Mr. Schoonmaker was employed by GTE Corporation. He testified before the Joint Board in 1996, at their request, regarding USF issues. In January, 1997, Mr. Schoonmaker participated in the FCC's Proxy Cost Model Workshops as a representative of the Rural Coalition. He holds a Masters of Accountancy degree from Brigham Young University, is knowledgeable about universal service issues, and is well known throughout the ILEC industry.

Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association, Inc., recognizes the challenge faced by regulators in developing a forward-looking cost model which will work for rural areas. We applaud the Joint Board's creation of the RTF and we look forward to providing input into the process as appropriate. We urge you to consider highly qualified individuals, such as Bob Schoonmaker, to serve on the RTF to ensure that the issues unique to rural carriers are fully examined.

Sincerely,



Burl Miner  
General Manager

cc: Rural Task Force  
Service List

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CC96-45

# New Florence Telephone Company, Inc.

P.O. Box 175 • 101 North Main Street  
New Florence, Missouri 63363-0175

Telephone Number 573-835-2997

FAX Number 573-835-2329

October 10, 1997

MAIL ROOM

Mr. William Caton  
Secretary of the FCC  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Mr. Caton:

I am writing to express my support for Bob Schoonmaker to represent incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs-Category 1) on the Rural Task Force which is being established by the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service.

I have known Mr. Schoonmaker for several years and know he is well qualified to serve on the Rural Task Force. Mr. Schoonmaker is Vice-President of GVNW Inc/Management, a firm specializing in regulatory and financial consulting services for rural ILECs. He has more than 20 years of experience in the telecommunications industry. Prior to his employment by GVNW, Mr. Schoonmaker was employed by GTE Corporation. He testified before the Joint Board in 1996, at their request, regarding USF issues. In January, 1997 Mr. Schoonmaker participated in the FCC's Proxy Cost Model Workshops as a representative of the Rural Coalition. He holds a Masters of Accountancy degree from Brigham Young University, is knowledgeable about universal service issues, and is well known throughout the ILEC industry.

New Florence Telephone Company recognizes the challenge faced by regulators in developing a forward-looking cost model which will work for rural areas. We applaud the Joint Board's creation of the RTF and we look forward to providing input into the process as appropriate. We urge you to consider highly qualified individuals, such as Bob Schoonmaker, to serve on the RTF to ensure that the issues unique to rural carriers are fully examined.

Sincerely,

Lon J. Gates  
Manager

CC: Attached Service List

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The Honorable Martha S. Hogarty  
Public Counsel  
Missouri Office of Public Counsel  
301 West High St. Suite 250  
P.O. Box 7800  
Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

Letter to:  
Secretary of the FCC  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Charles Bolle  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
State Capitol, 500 East Capitol St.  
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

The Honorable Julia Johnson, State Chair  
Chairman  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2450 Shumard Oak Blvd.  
Gerald Gunter Building  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

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

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

Tiane Sommer  
Georgia Public Service Commission  
244 Washington St. SW  
Atlanta, GA 30334-5701

Sheryl Todd  
Federal Communications Commission  
Accounting and Audits Division  
Universal Service Branch  
2100 M Street, NW, 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

H. Rullell Frisby, Jr.  
Chairman, Maryland Public Service Commission  
16th Floor, 6 Paul Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202-6806

Letter to:  
Astrid Carlson  
FCC  
2100 M Street, NW  
8th Floor  
Washington, DC 20554

0096-45

# Central Montana Communications, Inc.

P.O. Box 751 • Havre, Montana 59501 • Phone (406) 394-2000

Fax 406-265-7801

October 9, 1997 **MAIL ROOM**

**OCT 15 1997**

**DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL**

Secretary of the FCC  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

**RECEIVED**

Astrid Carlson, FCC  
2100 M Street, NW, 8th Floor  
Washington, DC 20554

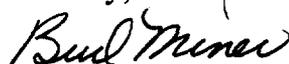
To the Secretary of the FCC:  
To Astrid Carlson, FCC:

I am writing to express my support for Bob Schoonmaker to represent incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs-Category 1) on the Rural Task Force (RTF) which is being established by the Federal - State Joint Board on Universal Service.

Mr. Schoonmaker is well qualified to serve on the RTF. Mr. Schoonmaker is Vice-President of GVNW Inc./Management, a firm specializing in regulatory and financial consulting services for rural ILECs. He has more than 20 years of experience in the telecommunications industry. Prior to his employment by GVNW, Mr. Schoonmaker was employed by GTE Corporation. He testified before the Joint Board in 1996, at their request, regarding USF issues. In January, 1997, Mr. Schoonmaker participated in the FCC's Proxy Cost Model Workshops as a representative of the Rural Coalition. He holds a Masters of Accountancy degree from Brigham Young University, is knowledgeable about universal service issues, and is well known throughout the ILEC industry.

Central Montana Communications, Inc., recognizes the challenge faced by regulators in developing a forward-looking cost model which will work for rural areas. We applaud the Joint Board's creation of the RTF and we look forward to providing input into the process as appropriate. We urge you to consider highly qualified individuals, such as Bob Schoonmaker, to serve on the RTF to ensure that the issues unique to rural carriers are fully examined.

Sincerely,

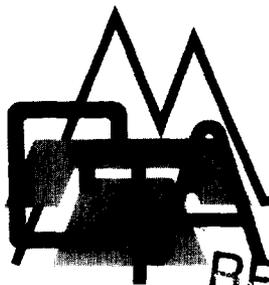


Burl Miner  
General Manager

cc: Rural Task Force  
Service List

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**COLORADO TELECOMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

RECEIVED

October 13, 1997

OCT 15 1997

FCC MAIL ROOM

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

Re: Rural Task Force Nominations - Donn T. Wonnell and Robert Schoonmaker  
CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Mr. Caton:

On September 17, 1997, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service (CC Docket No. 96-45) released a Public Notice soliciting nominations for participation on the Rural Task Force (RTF). As indicated in that Notice and the antecedent FCC Order of May 8, 1997, in the above docket, the purpose of the RTF is to inquire into and make recommendations with respect to "issues unique to rural carriers" concerning "the appropriateness of proxy cost models for rural carriers."

The Colorado Telecommunications Association (CTA) has a membership comprised of 29 local exchange providers within this State each of which provides telecommunications services to rural customers. CTA has worked actively at both the state and federal level to ensure that Congressional goals for "just, reasonable and affordable rates" and for universal service support which is "specific, predictable, and sufficient" are achieved. In further pursuit of those goals and in response to the Joint Board solicitation, CTA hereby nominates and recommends the following persons for selection to the Rural Task Force in the categories indicated:

Category 1:

Donn T. Wonnell, Vice President for Regulatory Affairs,  
Pacific Telecom, Inc. and Vice President, Eagle Tele-  
communications, Inc.

Robert C. Schoonmaker, Vice President of GVNW Inc.

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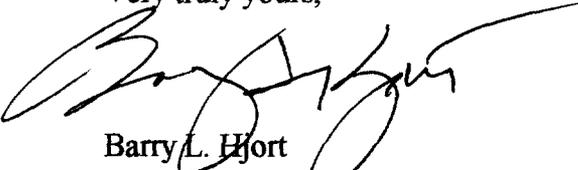
As the interpretation of the Category 1 requirements is somewhat unclear, CTA nominates Mr. Wonnell as representing an ILEC with more than \$40 million in annual revenues (Pacific Telecom, Inc.) and also as representing an ILEC with less than \$40 million in annual revenues (Eagle Telecommunications, Inc.). Mr. Wonnell is familiar with the "policy concerns" associated with the local exchange network and universal service as evidenced by the FCC's acknowledgment (paragraph 253 of the May 8<sup>th</sup> Order) of Pacific Telecom's work in establishing the RTF. Mr. Wonnell is also familiar with the "economic" issues surrounding the local exchange network, having testified before the Federal-State Joint Board in this docket on the subject of "Recovery of Interstate Loop Costs" (September, 1996, in Washington, D.C.).

Mr. Schoonmaker is nominated in Category 1 as a consultant representing ILECs with annual operating revenues of \$40 million or less. Mr. Schoonmaker holds a Masters of Accountancy degree from Brigham Young University and has worked with providers and regulators throughout the industry. In January of 1997, he participated in the FCC's Proxy Cost Model Workshops as a representative of the Rural Coalition. He has also testified before the Joint Board, at their request, regarding rural universal service fund issues.

Relevant professional and biographical information concerning each of the nominees is attached.

CTA believes the work of the Rural Task Force to be a critical element in the maintenance and expansion of quality and affordable service to rural consumers. The selection of these two able nominees would be in the interest of the Joint Board in carrying out its tasks assigned by the FCC and the Congress, and also in the interest of the rural consumer in ensuring continued universal support funding at adequate levels.

Very truly yours,



Barry L. Hjort  
Executive Vice President

cc Astrid Carlson, FCC  
Service List  
Donn T. Wonnell  
Robert Schoonmaker

Robert C. (Bob) Schoonmaker is a Vice President of GVNW Inc./Management, a consulting firm focusing on serving small telephone company clients. In his current position, Mr. Schoonmaker consults with independent telephone companies and provides financial analysis and management advice in areas of concern to these companies. Specific activities which he performs for client companies include regulatory analysis, consultation on regulatory policy, testifying on regulatory matters, financial analysis, business planning, rate design and tariff matters, interconnection agreement analysis, and general management consulting.

Mr Schoonmaker has testified on regulatory policy, local competition, rate design, accounting, compensation, tariff, interconnection agreements, and separations related issues before the several state public utility Commissions. In addition, he has filed written comments on behalf of GVNW with the Federal Communications Commission on a number of issues and has testified before the Federal-State Joint Board in CC Docket #96-45 on Universal Service issues at the FCC's request. He also was a participant in the FCC's technical workshops on proxy cost models representing both GVNW and the Rural Coalition.

Mr. Schoonmaker obtained his Masters of Accountancy degree from Brigham Young University in 1973 and joined GTE Corporation in June of that year. He served in several positions with increasing responsibilities in the revenue and accounting areas of several GTE subsidiaries over an eleven year period. Positions of responsibility included