

CC96-45

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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
HARRISBURG

THE GOVERNOR

October 15, 1997

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

Dear Secretary:

It is with great pleasure that I ask for your consideration of Public Utility Commissioner Nora Mead Brownell, as the regulator member, to the FCC's Rural Task Force (RTF).

With its large rural population and diverse geography, Pennsylvania can play a vital role in identifying those issues unique to rural carriers and recommend viable solutions.

Commissioner Brownell's background in community and economic development has played a large role in developing new and creative partnerships at the Commission and state levels. Her expertise in utility regulation and her commitment to rural Pennsylvania make her an ideal candidate to be among the discussions that will shape the future of rural America.

I have complete confidence in the abilities of Commissioner Brownell and trust she will represent the respective constituencies to the best of her abilities.

Sincerely,

TOM RIDGE

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**NORA MEAD BROWNELL**  
**Commissioner**

Commissioner Brownell was appointed by Governor Tom Ridge in April 1997 for a five year term ending March 31, 2002.

Prior to her appointment, Commissioner Brownell acted as the Executive Director of the Regional Performing Arts Center in Philadelphia, a \$200 million arts and economic development initiative.

Commissioner Brownell previously served as the Senior Vice President responsible for Meridian Bankcorp, Inc.'s Corporate Affairs Unit, overseeing corporate communications, public relations, and operations and policy direction for corporate community relations and Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) activities. Prior to joining Meridian in 1987, Commissioner Brownell was Deputy Executive Assistant to former Pennsylvania Governor Richard Thornburgh.

Commissioner Brownell serves on the Boards of Pennsylvania Humanities Council, Philadelphia Free Library, Please Touch Museum, Regional Performing Arts Center and Times Publishing Company.

Commissioner Brownell is a native of Erie, Pennsylvania, and attended Syracuse University.

*Commissioner: April 1, 1997 - March 31, 2002*

CONRAD BURNS  
MONTANA  
DEPUTY WHIP

CC96-45

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# United States Senate

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WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2603  
(202) 224-2644

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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 Chairman Hundt:

I would like to offer my support for the nomination of Joan Mandeville of Missoula, Montana, for membership on the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service's Rural Task Force (RTF) that is charged with identifying and evaluating the unique telecommunications needs of rural markets and carriers. Ms. Mandeville, assistant general manager of Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, is well qualified to provide the distinct insights and effective leadership qualities necessary to such an endeavor.

The complete and successful implementation of the new universal service support mechanisms envisioned by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 are among the most significant challenges facing the FCC at this time. The recommendations of the RTF could well determine whether or not this implementation is ultimately successful. Thus, the composition of the RTF is critically important and should certainly consist of individuals of the caliber of Ms. Mandeville.

The commitment of Ms. Mandeville to rural issues and needs is well established and documented. As the assistant general manager of Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, she is responsible for all regulatory matters and local interconnection issues related to the cooperative's operations. Ms. Mandeville is also a certified public accountant who has previously served as general manager, and also as director of regulatory and industry affairs, for the Montana Telephone Association. Prior to that, she worked for the Montana Public Service Commission.

I am hopeful that you too will view Ms. Mandeville as not only qualified candidate for the RTF, but an indispensable member of the team that will ensure rural local exchange carriers are fully able to operate in a fashion that will guarantee rural Americans able to continue enjoying the many benefits of the ever-evolving information age and all that it offers.

Sincerely,



Conrad Burns  
Chairman  
Senate Subcommittee on Communications

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PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

NORA MEAD BROWNELL  
COMMISSIONER

TELEPHONE: 717/772-0692  
FAX: 717/787-5813  
E MAIL: BROWNELL @ PUC.STATE.PA.US

October 15, 1997

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

Re: CC Docket 96-45  
FCC 97J-1

Dear Secretary:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, I am pleased to provide a nominee to be considered for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Rural Task Force. Due to the impact this Task Force's work will have on Pennsylvania's rural telephone customers, health care providers, and schools and libraries, I respectfully request your consideration of Mr. W. Garth Sprecher for the Category 1 position which includes incumbent local exchange carriers serving rural areas.

As Vice President and Secretary of the Denver and Ephrata Telephone and Telegraph Company (Denver and Ephrata), Mr. Sprecher has been a key contributor to the provision of telephone service in rural Pennsylvania. Mr. Sprecher has been employed by Denver and Ephrata since 1984. Mr. Sprecher was named Commercial Manager in 1988 and was elected a corporate officer in 1990. Presently, Mr. Sprecher serves on Denver and Ephrata's Board of Directors and Executive Committee. You may be aware that Denver and Ephrata Telephone and Telegraph Company presently serves over 50,000 residential and business access lines in Pennsylvania's rural counties of Berks, Lancaster and Lebanon. You also may know that Denver and Ephrata is one of the most innovative and technologically advanced rural telephone companies in the Commonwealth. In recent years, Denver and Ephrata has implemented an advanced intelligent network (AIN) with signaling system -7 (SS7) capability and also has constructed a fiber optic ring to connect its central offices.

I firmly believe that Mr. Sprecher will provide valuable assistance in the Task Force's analysis of issues unique to rural carriers including appropriate proxy cost models. I have complete confidence in the abilities of Mr. Sprecher to represent the interests of rural Pennsylvania on this crucial Task Force. I believe that it is imperative that Pennsylvania be represented on this Task Force because the Commonwealth has the largest number of rural residents (3.7 million) in the nation.

Sincerely,

NORA MEAD BROWNELL

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W. GARTH SPRECHER  
Biographical Information

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Graduated Ephrata High School in 1969; Bloomsburg University in 1973. Held positions in business and education before joining Red Rose Systems, Inc., a subsidiary of Denver and Ephrata Telephone and Telegraph Company in 1984. Was named D and E's Commercial Manager in 1988 and was elected as a corporate officer in 1990. Currently serving as Vice President and Secretary. Elected to D and E's Board of Directors in March 1993. Serves as a member of the Executive Committee.

Personal Data:

Born June 21, 1951. Resides at 2027 Wynfield Drive, Lancaster, PA 17601. Married to Robin D. Sprecher. One daughter, Susan L. Sprecher (age 18).

Involvement in the following civic organizations:

Lancaster Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Director

Ephrata Area Chamber of Commerce, Director

Lancaster-Lebanon Boy Scout Council, Vice President Administration, Member of Executive Committee, past Chairman - Eastern District

Ephrata Area Community Theater, Director and Assistant Coordinator of Fine Arts Productions

Ephrata Community Hospital Annual Campaign Committee, Member

Children's Miracle Network Telethon Corporate Board of Directors, past Chairman

Ephrata Economic Development Board, past President

Lancaster Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Education Committee, past Chairman

Manheim Chamber of Commerce, past Director

Professional Memberships:

American Society of Corporate Secretaries, currently serving on Executive Committee as Vice President and Secretary of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter

Pennsylvania Telephone Association, Member - Legislative Affairs Committee

The Pennsylvania Society

Social Memberships:

Lancaster Country Club

Hamilton Club of Lancaster

Hershey Country Club

Long Cove Club, South Carolina

8/22/97