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January 30, 1998



Magalie Roman-Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W. - Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45
Rural Task Force Nominations

Dear Ms. Roman-Salas:

On October 15, 1997, USTA sent endorsements for the Rural Task Force that is being organized under the auspices of the Universal Service Federal/State Joint Board.

Very recently, both of the Mid-Size Company Committee nominees for Category 1- Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers Serving Rural Areas have left their respective companies. Therefore, we request that those two nominees be withdrawn and the following two people replace them as USTA's Mid-Size Company endorsements for Category 1:

Paul Pederson Director, Rates & Tariffs
 TDS Telecom
 Madison, Wisconsin

Amy Gilchrist Vice President, Regulatory
 Citizens Communications
 Stamford, Connecticut

The other endorsements of both the Mid-Size and Small Company Committees remain the same. We appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary McDermott
Vice President - Legal & Regulatory Affairs

cc: attached service list

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