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January 22, 1998

EX PARTE PRESENTATION

Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW - Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

JAN 22 1998

Re: CC Docket No. 96-149

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Ms. Roman Salas:

On January 22, 1998, the United States Telephone Association (USTA), through Richard D'Antonio (Bentleyville Telephone Company), John LaBonte (MCT Telecom), Robert Orent (Hiawatha Telephone Company) and the undersigned, met with Craig Brown, Andrea Kearney and Joe Welch of the FCC's Common Carrier Bureau. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the FCC's Second Report and Order in the above-referenced proceeding, as modified by its subsequent Order on Reconsideration.

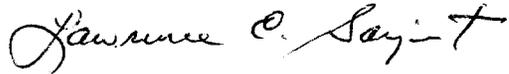
During the meeting, Messrs. D'Antonio, LaBonte and Orent each described how and where his respective independent local exchange telephone company provides interexchange, interstate telephone service. Each of the gentlemen specifically described how his company uses resold long distance service to provide interexchange, interstate telephone service. The discussion included descriptions of the companies' service areas, call provisioning and the general nature of their relationships with the underlying carriers from whom they purchase services. The descriptions provided with respect to the provisioning of interexchange, interstate service were offered in support of the position taken by the USTA in its Petition for Reconsideration in this proceeding that the FCC's concerns about independent ILECs using their local exchange facilities to harm interexchange, interstate competition are unfounded. The discussion was intended to demonstrate that the cost and market constraints that exist for independent ILECs, in conjunction with existing FCC non-structural safeguards, make it impractical, if not impossible, for them to harm interexchange, interstate competition if permitted to provide interexchange, interstate service originating from their service areas on a non-structurally separated basis.

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In accordance with Section 1.1206(a)(1) of the FCC's rules, two copies of this notice of presentation are being submitted today for inclusion in the record for this proceeding. Please contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lawrence E. Sarjeant". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L' and a distinct 'S'.

Lawrence E. Sarjeant
Consultant to the
United States Telephone Association

cc: Craig Brown
Andrea Kearney
Joe Welch