



EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

International Business Machines Corporation

1301 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005-3307
202/515-4000

February 11, 1998

RECEIVED

FEB 11 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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

Re: Ex Parte Contact in CC Docket No. 96-45 (Report to Congress)

Dear Ms. Salas:

On February 10, 1998, Chris Caine, Vice President, IBM Governmental Programs, and I met with Chairman William E. Kennard, his legal advisor, Mr. Thomas Power, and Chief, Office of Plans and Policy, Dr. Robert M. Pepper, regarding the report to Congress on universal service in the above-referenced docket. We expressed IBM's view that the Commission has correctly interpreted the Telecommunications Act with respect to its decision not to require information service providers (ISPs) to contribute directly to the universal service fund. We stated our concern that including ISPs could lead to expanded regulation of information service providers in the U.S. and other countries. Such regulation could dampen economic growth.

The original and one copy of this letter are hereby submitted in compliance with FCC rules.

Sincerely,

Steven W. Stewart
Program Manager, Telecommunications Policy

cc: The Honorable William E. Kennard
Dr. Robert M. Pepper
Mr. Thomas Power

No. of Copies rec'd 021
List ABCDE