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March 2, 1998

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20541

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

CC Docket 96-45

Rural Task Force Nominations Rural Task Force Nominations

Dear Ms. Salas:

On February 23, the Common Carrier Bureau issued a Public Notice soliciting additional nominations to the Rural Task Force.

In that Public Notice, the Bureau observed that "several nominees have changed positions and various organizations have sought to offer substitute nominations". USTA was one such organization. The Public Notice also states that "nominations already submitted should not be resubmitted". However, USTA's offer of substitute nominees occurred on January 30, 1998, well past the October 15, 1997 deadline. Therefore, USTA today submits the complete and current list of its nominees.

USTA's Small Company Committee endorses the following nominees for the Task Force:

Category 1 - Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers Serving Rural Areas

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Evelyn Jerden | Director, Revenue Requirements
Western New Mexico Telephone Company
Silver City, NM |
| Joan Mandeville | Assistant Manager
Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative
Missoula, MT |
| Michael Pinguoch | Controller
Great Plains Communications, Inc.
Blair, NE |
| David Schmidt | General Manager
Heart of Iowa Telecommunications Cooperative
Union, IA |

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Robert D. Williams General Manager
Oregon Farmers Mutual Telephone Company
Oregon, MO

Category 5 - Insular Areas/Alaska

Jack H. Rhyner President
TelAlaska
Anchorage, AK

USTA's Mid-Size Company Committee endorses the following nominees for the Task Force:

Category 1 - Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers Serving Rural Areas

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

Amy Gilchrist Vice President, Regulatory
Citizens Communications
Stamford, CT

Category 5 - Insular Areas/Alaska

David L. Sharp President/CEO
Virgin Islands Telephone Company
St. Thomas, VI

As an organization, USTA is confident that each and every one of the nine nominees listed above are imminently qualified to be Task Force members, and are dedicated to active participation on the Task Force if they are chosen to serve. It is a reflection of how important the work of the Task Force will be that there continues to be an unprecedented level of interest on this matter from among USTA's membership.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary McDermott
Vice President - Legal & Regulatory Affairs

cc: attached service list

Appendix -- 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. Hogerty
Public Counsel
Missouri Office of Public Counsel
301 West High Street, Suite 250
P.O. Box 7800
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Charles Bolle
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
State Capitol, 500 East Capitol Street
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Bridget Duff, State Staff Chair
Florida Public Service Commission
2450 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0866

Astrid Carlson (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

Phillip F. McClelland
PA Office of Consumer Advocate
1425 Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Tiane Sommer
Georgia Public Service Commission
244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30334-5701