

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

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In the Matter of
Federal-State Joint
Board on Universal Service

CC Docket No. 96-45 and
97-160 (DA 98-715)

Comments Of North Dakota Public Service Commission Concerning Cost Model Inputs.

On May 4, 1998, the Common Carrier Bureau (CCB) of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released a Notice, DA 98-848, seeking to augment the record on certain issues relating to the creation of a forward-looking economic cost mechanism, including the input values for that mechanism.

The CCB requested comments on several input issues, including the issue of how to define "households." The North Dakota Public Service Commission wishes to comment on this issue. We urge the FCC to use the Census bureau definition of "households" as meaning **occupied housing units**. We believe that using any other definition or universe will distort the results, especially in rural areas such as North Dakota.

Attached is a print-out showing total housing units for North Dakota, by county, and the percentage of housing units that are occupied. This information includes data from the 1990 census, and was provided by the North Dakota State Data Center at North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND. The data clearly indicate that if total households (occupied and unoccupied) is the universe used, the total need will be overstated. Since population is shifting from rural to urban North Dakota, we believe that these percentages are high, and the next census will show even lower rates of occupied housing units.

For these reasons, we urge the FCC to use a universe for "households" that includes only *occupied housing units*.

The FCC's request for additional comments also asked whether the FCC should require incumbent LECs to provide the universal service administrator with wire center boundary data and the number of residential, multi-line and single-line business lines served in each wire center. The North Dakota Public Service Commission believes it is important to have this specific data in order to make an informed decision on the cost model input issues. We believe the LECs should be required to provide this data to the administrator.

Respectfully submitted by the North Dakota Public Service Commission this 22nd day of May, 1998.

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

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Housing Units by Tenure for North Dakota by County, 1990

Area name	Total Housing Units	Total Occupied Housing Units			
		Total	% Occupied	Owner	Renter
North Dakota	276,340	240,878	87.2	157,950	82,928
Adams County	1,504	1,266	84.2	891	375
Barnes County	5,801	4,975	85.8	3,407	1,568
Benson County	3,163	2,415	76.4	1,646	769
Billings County	533	387	72.6	300	87
Bottineau County	4,661	3,105	66.6	2,431	674
Bowman County	1,691	1,420	84.0	1,121	299
Burke County	1,691	1,252	74.0	1,024	228
Burleigh County	23,803	22,684	95.3	14,704	7,980
Cass County	42,407	40,281	95.0	22,073	18,208
Cavalier County	3,038	2,375	78.2	1,893	482
Dickey County	2,763	2,299	83.2	1,611	688
Divide County	1,667	1,193	71.6	950	243
Dunn County	2,057	1,433	69.7	1,123	310
Eddy County	1,470	1,194	81.2	854	340
Emmons County	2,200	1,849	84.0	1,520	329
Foster County	1,876	1,541	82.1	1,141	400
Golden Valley County	1,035	811	78.4	613	198
Grand Forks County	27,085	25,340	93.6	12,345	12,995
Grant County	2,011	1,374	68.3	1,118	256
Griggs County	1,660	1,294	78.0	982	312
Hettinger County	1,637	1,341	81.9	1,100	241
Kidder County	1,672	1,247	74.6	1,045	202
LaMoure County	2,434	2,075	85.3	1,641	434
Logan County	1,335	1,096	82.1	949	147
McHenry County	3,320	2,551	76.8	2,056	495
McIntosh County	2,031	1,687	83.1	1,381	306
McKenzie County	3,178	2,301	72.4	1,710	591
McLean County	5,515	3,933	71.3	3,106	827
Mercer County	4,496	3,560	79.2	2,862	698
Morton County	9,467	8,677	91.7	6,346	2,331
Mountrail County	3,675	2,587	70.4	1,951	636
Nelson County	2,261	1,831	81.0	1,392	439
Oliver County	968	809	83.6	691	118
Pembina County	4,294	3,555	82.8	2,751	804
Pierce County	2,355	1,974	83.8	1,458	516
Ramsey County	5,616	4,977	88.6	3,190	1,787
Ransom County	2,569	2,284	88.9	1,710	574
Renville County	1,558	1,209	77.6	949	260
Richland County	7,394	6,518	88.2	4,489	2,029
Rolette County	4,742	4,150	87.5	2,692	1,458
Sargent County	2,057	1,763	85.7	1,400	363
Sheridan County	1,061	858	80.9	730	128
Sioux County	1,175	1,022	87.0	446	576
Slope County	481	333	69.2	273	60
Stark County	9,585	8,479	88.5	5,827	2,652
Steele County	1,311	991	75.6	749	242
Stutsman County	9,770	8,661	88.6	5,691	2,970
Towner County	1,770	1,433	81.0	1,015	418
Traill County	3,770	3,327	88.2	2,363	964
Walsh County	6,093	5,229	85.8	3,921	1,308
Ward County	23,585	21,485	91.1	12,833	8,652
Wells County	2,869	2,406	83.9	1,797	609
Williams County	10,180	8,041	79.0	5,689	2,352

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population and Housing.