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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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

Re: Personal Communications Industry Association's
Nomination to the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service
Rural Task Force
CC Docket # 96-45

Dear Ms. Salas:

The Personal Communications Industry Association ("PCIA") hereby submits its nomination for the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service's Rural Task Force and, more specifically, the newly created position representing wireless telecommunications providers on the Rural Task Force ("RTF").¹ PCIA's nominee is Mary McDermott, Senior Vice President and Chief of Staff for Governmental Relations, at PCIA. A copy of Ms. McDermott's resume is attached to this letter.

PCIA has more than 1,500 members worldwide and represents the chief providers of wireless voice and data communications. As the leading international trade association for the personal communications industry, PCIA's member companies include broadband PCS, paging and messaging, LMDS, ESMR, SMR, and mobile data service providers as well as site owners and managers, manufacturers, distributors, technicians, and others providing services and products to the wireless industry.

As indicated in her resume, Ms. McDermott is highly qualified to represent the interests of the wireless telecommunications industry on the RTF. Based on her past experience and her current role at PCIA, Ms. McDermott is attuned to the special issues facing rural wireless providers. In addition, prior to joining PCIA, Ms. McDermott served for four years as vice president - legal and regulatory affairs for the United States Telephone Association ("USTA") where she was responsible for the association's legal and regulatory strategies and represented

¹ See FCC Public Notice, *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Solicits Additional Nominations for Wireless Representative to Serve on Rural Task Force*, CC Docket Nos. 96-45, FCC 98J-3 (Sept. 10, 1998).

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the association before the FCC and other agencies within the federal government. She also has been employed in other contexts within the telecommunications industry since 1982.

Rural wireless telecommunications providers offer a wide range of services using a variety of distinct technologies. These operators range from very small to larger companies, with a diversity of interests. Thus, it will be difficult for any single person to be a spokesperson representing a consolidated viewpoint on behalf of a highly diverse industry segment. Since PCIA's membership includes wireless carriers from varied industry segments, Ms. McDermott has the advantage of working closely with them.

It is clear, as suggested in the Public Notice soliciting nominations, that Ms. McDermott possesses substantial experience in and knowledge of telecommunications issues, and is well-suited to serve on the RTF. Moreover, Ms. McDermott's experience at USTA affords her a valuable perspective and understanding of the policy concerns of a local exchange network.² Her combined experience of working for the nation's leading wireless association and USTA assures that Ms. McDermott would make a significant contribution to RTF as it completes its important mission.

Ms. McDermott and PCIA pledge to effectively represent the wireless telecommunications industry by actively coordinating with wireless representatives, including other associations, to solicit invaluable input regarding the issues considered by the RTF. Furthermore, Ms. McDermott will work closely with PCIA's many rural and smaller wireless members as well as with all other associations and private entities on these issues. Such efforts will help to determine wireless telecommunications industry consensus positions as well as to highlight those areas where wireless licensees do not share a common viewpoint, in a way that can then be communicated to the RTF.

Ms. McDermott and PCIA understand that the RTF held its first meeting on July 29 and that a report on the issues related to establishing a forward-looking economic cost ("FLEC") mechanism for rural carriers is due nine months after the Commission implements a FLEC mechanism for non-rural carriers. Ms. McDermott is available to begin work on this important task immediately and PCIA is fully committed to providing the resources necessary to allow Ms. McDermott serve effectively on the RTF, including resources for travel and associated expenses. PCIA believes that its members, the wireless industry generally, and the RTF all would be well served by Ms. McDermott's active participation on the RTF given her depth of relevant experience in the telecommunications industry.

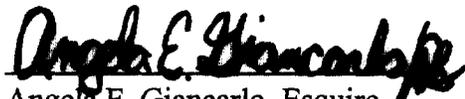
² See FCC Public Notice, *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Announces the Creation of a Rural Task Force; Solicits Nominations for Membership on Rural Task Force*, CC Docket 96-45, FCC 97J-1 (Sept. 17, 1997).

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Should you have any questions concerning this nomination, please feel free to contact me at (703) 739-0300.

Respectfully submitted,

Personal Communications Industry
Association

By: 
Angela E. Giancarlo, Esquire
Government Relations

Attachment

cc: Attached Service List

MARY McDERMOTT

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

May 1998 to present

Personal Communications Industry Association,
Alexandria, Virginia

Senior Vice President and Chief of Staff for Government Relations

Responsible for leading PCIA's efforts at the FCC, before the Congress, and the Administration on a wide range of issues affecting the association's diverse wireless membership. Speaks on PCIA's views at a variety of industry forums and seminars.

1994 to May 1998

United States Telephone Association, Washington, DC

Vice President - Legal and Regulatory Affairs

Responsible for all legal and regulatory matters affecting the Association and its 1200 member telecommunications companies. Supervised the staff that represents USTA before the Federal Communications Commission, other federal agencies, the courts, and industry forums. Spoke on USTA's views at a variety of forums and seminars.

1986 to 1994

NYNEX, White Plains, NY

General Attorney (1988 to 1994)

Supervised NYNEX attorneys responsible for a range of matters before the Federal Communications Commission and who advised marketing, strategic planning, and technical standards personnel. Negotiated agreements with major communications and publishing firms.

Attorney, (1986 to 1988)

Concentration in antitrust issues as well as issues involving the Bell System divestiture decree.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (con't)

1982 to 1986

**New England Telephone and Telegraph Company,
Boston, MA**

Attorney

Concentration in utility and administrative law.
Responsible for representing N. E. Telephone in
all proceedings before the Maine Public Service
Commission.

1980 to 1982

**Mershon, Sawyer, Johnston, Dunwody and Cole,
Miami, FL**

Associate

Concentration in commercial litigation and immigration
law.

ORGANIZATIONS:

Chairman-Elect of the Board of Trustees, Federal
Communications Bar Association (FCBA) Foundation
(1998-1999)

Chair, FCBA Common Carrier Practice Committee (1995-
1997)

Member, Telecommunications Access Advisory Committee
of the US Architectural and Transportation Barriers
Compliance Board (1996-1997)

Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Westchester
Volunteer Center of the United Way (1992 -1994)

Director-at-Large of the NYNEX Association of
Management Women (1991-1993)

Co-Chairman of the Communications Law Committee
of the Corporate Bar (1993-1994).

Guest Lecturer on Communications Law Practice, Pace
Law School, (1988-1994).

EDUCATION:

Legal

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL
J.D., 1980

Managing Editor, *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties
Law Review*

Project Coordinator, *Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Research
Committee*

Undergraduate

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY
B.A., Political Science, 1977
magna cum laude

Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Sigma Alpha,
Board of Regents Scholar, Class Marshall,
Outstanding Political Science Undergraduate Award

MEMBER:

New York Bar, Massachusetts Bar, Florida Bar, Federal
Communications Bar Association, and Women in Cable
and Telecommunications

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 17th day of September, 1998, I caused copies of the foregoing PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION'S NOMINATION TO THE FEDERAL-STATE JOINT BOARD ON UNIVERSAL SERVICE RURAL TASK FORCE to be mailed via first-class postage prepaid mail to the following:

The Honorable Susan Ness, Chair, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 832
Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Harold Furchtgott-Roth, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 802
Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Gloria Tristani, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 826
Washington, DC 20554

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 Patrick H. Wood, III, Chairman
Texas Public Utility Commission
1701 North Congress Avenue
P.O. Box 13326
Austin, TX 78701

Martha S. Hogerty
Missouri Office of Public Council
301 West High Street, Suite 250
Truman Building
Jefferson City, MO 65102

James Casserly
Federal Communications Commission
Commissioner Ness's Office
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 832
Washington, DC 20554

Rowland Curry
Texas Public Utility Commission
1701 North Congress Avenue
P.O. Box 13326
Austin, TX 78701

Irene Flannery, Federal Staff Chair
Federal Communications Commission
Accounting and Audits Division
Universal Service Branch
2100 M Street, N.W., Room 8922
Washington, DC 20554

Paul Gallant
Federal Communications Commission
Commissioner Tristani's Office
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 826
Washington, DC 20554

Lori Kenyon
Alaska Public Utilities Commission
1016 West Sixth Avenue, Suite 400
Anchorage, AK 99501

Mark Long
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0866

Sandra Makeeff-Adams
Iowa Utilities Board
Lucas State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319

Kevin Martin
Federal Communications Commission
Commissioner Furchtgott-Roth's Office
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 802
Washington, DC 20554

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

Susan Stevens Miller
Maryland Public Service Commission
16th Floor, 6 Paul Street
Baltimore, MD 21202-6806

Thor Nelson
Colorado Office of Consumer Counsel
1580 Logan Street, Suite 610
Denver, CO 80203

Mary E. Newmeyer
Alabama Public Service Commission
100 N. Union Street
Montgomery, AL 36104

Barry Payne
Indiana Office of the Consumer Counsel
100 North Senate Avenue, Room N501
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2208

James B. Ramsay
National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners
1100 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
P.O. Box 684
Washington, DC 20044-0684

Brian Roberts
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

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

Sheryl Todd (plus 8 copies)
Federal Communications Commission
Accounting and Audits Division
Universal Service Branch
2100 M Street, N.W., Room 8611
Washington, DC 20554

Tom Wilson
Washington Utilities & Transportation
Commission
1300 Evergreen Park Drive, S.W.
Olympia, WA 98504-7250



Christine Peyton