



**Brett Kilbourne**  
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December 5, 2014

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 - 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Ex Parte

Re: Notice of Ex Parte Presentation, WC Docket No. 10-90, WC Docket No. 14-58, and WC Docket No. 14-192.

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This is to notify you pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's Rules and in connection with the above-referenced proceedings that on December 3, 2014 the following utility participants along with the undersigned from the Utilities Telecom Council met with Priscilla Delgado Argeris, Wireline Advisor in the Office of Commissioner Rosenworcel:

Kathleen Nelson and Chris Leleux from Great River Energy;  
Robert Hance and David Allen from Midwest Energy Cooperative;  
Mike Keyser from BARC Electric Cooperative;  
Alyssa Roberts from Ozarks Electric Cooperative;  
Sheila Allgood from Bolt Fiber Optic Services (a subsidiary of Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative); and  
Larry Gates from the City of Chanute, as well as Mikel Kline from Segal, Inc. (on behalf of the City of Chanute).

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Commission's rulemaking proposal to open areas to competitive bidding and remove them from the right of first refusal for the price cap carriers where there were applications that were submitted to the Commission to provide rural broadband experiments (RBE). As the utility participants explained, the Commission's proposal to carve out these areas from the right of first refusal is critical to providing robust, affordable and reliable broadband services to rural America.

The utility participants explained that there was a total of \$885 million in RBE projects that was proposed by applicants, which exceeds the budget of \$100 million for the entire RBE program. As such, access to Connect America Fund Phase II support through the proposed carve-out will be critical for many of those applicants to have access to any funding, if they are not selected to receive funding through the RBE program. Many of the projects are by cooperative and municipal utilities that propose to provide faster broadband speeds at lower prices to unserved locations throughout utility service areas. As such, the Commission has been presented with a once in a generation opportunity to allow these proposals to compete to serve these areas. Thus, the utility participants urged the Commission to adopt the Commission's proposal to open up for competitive bidding those areas where there are applications filed to provide RBE projects. The substance of the discussions was consistent with the comments of UTC on the record.

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Thank you for your help in this matter. If there are any questions concerning this matter, please let me know.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brett Kilbourne".

Brett Kilbourne

cc: FCC Participants