



**Brett Kilbourne**  
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December 8, 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. 13-184, 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 4, 2014 the following utility participants along with the undersigned from the Utilities Telecom Council met with Jonathan Chambers, Chief of the Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Analysis and Joseph Freddoso from Mighty River, LLC:

Kathleen Nelson and Chris Leleux from Great River Energy;  
Robert Hance and David Allen from Midwest Energy 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 Sega, Inc. (on behalf of the City of Chanute).

During the meeting, the utility participants discussed 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.

During the meeting, the utility participants also discussed opportunities for utilities to access E-rate funding. The utility participants supported the Commission's proposal to make funding available for construction of facilities to provide access to schools and libraries. This will help to underwrite some of the high costs that utilities are facing to run fiber connections into extremely rural areas where school and libraries are located. Utilities are uniquely positioned to provide services to rural communities, including schools and libraries, because they have extensive resources which can be leveraged to deploy networks into remote locations and they are committed to providing broadband to these communities as a means of promoting educational and economic growth.

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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