



Filed Via ECFS

May 15, 2015

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Notice of Ex Parte – WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 14-58, 07-135, 06-122, 05-337, and 03-109; GN Docket No. 09-51; CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 01-92; and WT Docket No. 10-208

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On May 13, 2015 Darby McCarty of Smithville Telephone Company, Ralph Frye of Burke's Garden Telephone, Trey Judy representing Bluffton Telephone, Inc. and Hargray Telephone Company, Inc., Jerry Weikle representing ERTA and Gerry Duffy representing WTA - Advocates for Rural Broadband met with Amy Bender of Commissioner Michael O'Rielly's office.

There was discussion about the wide disparity generated in the draft Rate of Return cost model released by the Commission, concern about the reasons behind the disparity, and potential impact of high cost support losses on customers. There was discussion about some ERTA member companies that have built out fiber to customers that would lose too much support under the model to make debt payments. There was discussion about a transition period should companies lose support, ERTA supports a 5% safety net to limit revenue declines similar to that established in the 2011 intercarrier compensation proceeding.

There was also discussion about an Emergency Petition for Waiver filed by NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association (“NTCA”), the National Exchange Carrier Association (“NECA”), ITTA, the Eastern Rural Telecom Association (“ERTA”), WTA–Advocates for Rural Broadband, Frontier Communications Corporation, and Windstream Communications, Inc. on July 7, 2014 for waiver of Section 51.913(a) of Commission rules. There has been no action on the Waiver and as a result a loss of revenue and cash flow has been experienced.

If there are any questions, I can be reached at 704.782.7738.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jerry Weikle

Jerry Weikle
Regulatory Consultant

cc: Amy Bender