



November 16, 2015

Chairman Tom Wheeler
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 200 national organizations to promote and protect the civil and human rights of all persons in the United States, we are pleased to nominate Olivia Wein to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors in the position for information service providers.¹

The Leadership Conference considers ensuring access to essential communications services as one of the most significant civil rights issues facing the country today. For this reason, we believe that it is imperative for low-income policy experts like Ms. Wein to be represented on USAC's board. Ms. Wein is the Lead Telecom Project Attorney for the National Consumer Law Center and has been working on Universal Services issues since her time as an Economic Justice Fellow at Consumers Union in the late 1990s. Through her fifteen years as a low-income utility consumer advocate with the National Consumer Law Center, Ms. Wein has been involved in the design and implementation of state and federal low-income program telecom, energy, and water affordability programs. Ms. Wein has a unique, deep understanding of the Lifeline program and worked very closely with local California advocates in the redesign of the California Lifeline program.

As a key member of The Leadership Conference's Media/Telecommunications Task Force, which is made up of core members of the civil and human rights community with expertise in media and telecommunications issues, Ms. Wein has been a valuable resource to the civil rights community on the Universal Service Programs, particularly Lifeline. There is little question that Ms. Wein will be able to play a vital role in providing USAC with low-income program implementation expertise, including how to effectively reach out to and engage with Lifeline-eligible consumers and their local community assistance agencies. This will become even more critical given the potential dramatic eligibility determination change in the near future.

¹ In 2013, the Wireline Competition Bureau did not receive nominations for the seats representing interexchange carriers with more than \$3 billion in annual operating revenues or information service providers and as a result waived 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.703(b) and 54.703(c)(3) to appoint members from the telecommunications field for those two seats, enabling USAC to operate with its full complement of Board members. *See Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Changes to the Board of Directors of the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc.; Nominations for Board Member Positions on the Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors*, CC Docket Nos. 96-45, 97-21, Order, DA 13-607 (Wireline Comp. Bur. Rel. Apr. 25, 2013).

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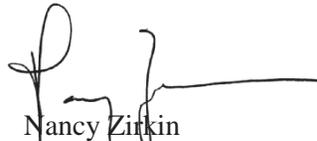


Given her longstanding leadership on Universal Services issues and Lifeline in particular, and her central role within the Leadership Conference Media/Telecommunications Task Force, we believe that Ms. Wein will be an asset to USAC as a member of its board. Please do not hesitate to contact Corrine Yu, Leadership Conference Managing Policy Director at yu@civilrights.org if you have any additional questions regarding this nomination.

Sincerely,



Wade Henderson
President & CEO



Nancy Zinkin
Executive Vice President

Cc: Charles Tyler, FCC Wireline Competition Bureau