



**Brett Kilbourne**  
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December 16, 2015

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 and 14-93.

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Utilities Telecom Council is providing the following ex parte notification in the above-referenced proceeding in accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's Rules. On December 14, 2015, Ken Johnson and Randy Klindt on behalf of the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives (and representing Co-Mo Electric Cooperative and Co-Mo Comm, Inc. in Tipton, Missouri), as well as Eric Wagner and the undersigned on behalf of the Utilities Telecom Council ("UTC") held a conference call meeting with Rebekah Goodheart, Legal Advisor, Wireline for the Office of Commissioner Clyburn to discuss matters related to the above-referenced proceedings.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the framework for the reverse auction for Phase II of the Connect America Fund. Specifically, the representatives from the Missouri cooperative utilities and UTC expressed their support for the adoption of a framework for the reverse auction that would be composed of two stages: one stage for broadband projects that would propose to provide fiber-to-the-home, and the second for projects that would propose to provide 25/3 mbps speeds. This framework would encourage the deployment of fiber optic broadband services in unserved areas, and it would also provide access to other forms of broadband services in unserved areas where there were no bids submitted to provide fiber optic broadband services.

More importantly, this framework would ensure that rural America gained access to broadband services that were reasonably comparable in terms of quality and cost compared to the broadband services that are offered in urban areas, consistent with the principles underlying Universal Service provided under the Communications Act. The representatives from the Missouri cooperative utilities and UTC emphasized that rural America should not be left behind in terms of broadband access. They also explained how electric utilities are providing fiber optic broadband services on a cost-effective basis in rural areas. Specifically, they are able to offer broadband services with tiers starting at \$39.95 and going up to gigabit speeds for less than \$100/month (as well as 100 megabit per second upload and download symmetrical service for \$49.95 per month), even in areas of rural Missouri where customer density is as low as four customers per mile. Finally, they explained that this framework would also provide a bright line for eligibility that would reduce administrative burdens and make it easier for the Commission to apply its post-auction selection criteria that it would use to award funding.

This positions expressed during the meeting were consistent with the positions that UTC has supported in previous meetings and written presentations with the Commission (*See e.g.* Letter from Brett Kilbourne, Vice President & Deputy General Counsel, Utilities Telecom Council to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, WC Docket No. 10-90 (filed July 6, 2015)).

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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