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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

October 13, 1998

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Regulatory Treatment of LEC Provision of Interexchange Services Originating in the LEC's Local Exchange Area (CC Docket No. 96-149);

Policy and Rules Concerning the Interstate, Interexchange Marketplace (CC Docket No. 96-61);

Leaco Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.; Petition for Waiver

EX PARTE NOTICE

Dear Ms. Salas:

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Rules and Regulations of the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC" or "Commission"), the purpose of this letter is provide notification that the undersigned, counsel for Leaco Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("Leaco"), met this afternoon with Paul Gallant, Legal Assistant to Commissioner Gloria Tristani, to discuss the status of Leaco's above-referenced waiver petition. Counsel briefly discussed the burdens that Leaco would incur if it was required to set up a separate affiliate in order to provide interexchange service, and explained how grant of the waiver would serve the public interest. Counsel expressed Leaco's concern with the period of time that has passed without Commission action on its petition, and expressed its interest in expediting resolution of the waiver so that Leaco may proceed with its plans to offer interexchange service to its cooperative members.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b)(2) of the Commission's rules, a copy of this letter is transmitted herewith. Should the Commission have any questions with respect to this matter, it is requested to communicate directly with the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

Michael R. Bennet

Michael R. Bennet.

cc: Paul Gallant