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April 28, 1999

Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
445 Twelfth St., SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: The Rural Telecommunications Group
***Ex Parte* Notice**
CC Docket No. 98-146

alas:

On behalf of the Rural Telecommunications Group, on April 15, 1999, we filed an *Ex Parte* Notice regarding an *Ex Parte* Presentation on April 14, 1999 in the above-referenced docket. Apparently, multiple copies of the document were transmitted. Due to the fact that the incorrect file (or files) was inadvertently transmitted through the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) on April 15, 1999, we submitted a letter on April 21, 1999 requesting that you delete the file transmitted April 15, 1999 in the above-referenced docket and replace it with the attached file.

By this letter, we request that you delete all files that were transmitted on 1999 in the above-referenced docket and replace them with the attached file.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

/s/ Gregory W. Whiteaker
Gregory W. Whiteaker

RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS GROUP

the voice of rural wireless telecommunications providers

***1000 Vermont Avenue, NW, 10th Floor
Washington, DC 20005***

MEMORANDUM

TO: Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission

FROM: Gregory W. Whiteaker, Regulatory Counsel

DATE: April 15, 1999

RE: Oral *Ex Parte* Presentation-April 14, 1999

***In re* Inquiry Concerning the Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Capability to All Americans in a Reasonable and Timely Fashion, and Possible Steps to Accelerate Such Deployment Pursuant to Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.**

CC Docket No. 98-146

***In re* Deployment of Wireline Services Offering Advanced Telecommunications Capability**

CC Docket No. 98-147

***In Re* Revision of the Commission's Rules to Ensure Compatibility With Enhanced 911 Emergency Calling Systems**

CC Docket No. 94-102

***In Re* Telephone Number Portability**

CC Docket No. 95-116

***In Re* 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review-Spectrum Aggregation Limits for Wireless Telecommunications Carriers**

WT Docket No. 98-205

***In Re* Interconnection between Local Exchange Carriers and Commercial Mobile Radio Service Providers**

CC Docket No. 95-185

CC Docket No. 96-98

***In Re* Federal/State Board on Universal Service**

CC Docket No. 96-45

***In Re* Amendment of Parts 0, 1, 13, 22, 24, 36, 27, 80, 87, 90, 95, 97 and 101 of the**

**Commission's Rules to Facilitate the Development and Use of the Universal Licensing System in the Wireless Telecommunications Services.
WT Docket No. 98-20**

***In Re* Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 1999
MD Docket No. 98-2000**

On Wednesday, April 14, 1999, members of the Rural Telecommunications Group (RTG) and their counsel met with Commissioner Harold Furchtgott-Roth and members of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's or Commission's) Office of Plans and Policy ("OPP"), and Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) concerning issues relating to the above proceedings at the 1999 RTG Regulatory Strategy Meeting.

The representatives of RTG discussed arguments contained in RTG's comments and reply comments in the above captioned proceedings as well as general issues pertaining to rural telecommunications providers. This summary of additional data and arguments presented at the meeting is being filed electronically with the Commission.

RTG, through its counsel and members, expressed concerns regarding the ability of rural telecommunications carriers to provide advanced telecommunications services due to the difficulties in acquiring spectrum. Rural providers, which possess limited financial resources, are often unable to acquire licenses because the area which they desire to serve falls within large Major Trading Areas (MTA) and Basic Trading Areas (BTAs) which contain large urban areas, such as Houston or Dallas. Consequently, these providers are effectively shut-out of the spectrum auction process, and their subscribers are denied the ability to obtain these important services. RTG members also stated that the larger entities which eventually acquire these licenses have refused to engage in partitioning deals with rural providers and have also failed to build-out systems to provide coverage to rural areas.

The members stated that the FCC can help ensure the deployment of service to rural areas by auctioning spectrum licenses on a Rural Service Area (RSA) basis. This would allow rural providers to acquire licenses which cover solely rural areas. Rural providers would then possess the spectrum necessary to begin offering advanced services to rural consumers.

RTG informed the Commission that reasonable rates for ILEC/CMRS interconnection must be set. CMRS providers are unable to provide innovative services and pricing plans if local exchange carriers continue to require high per minute interconnection rates.

The members stated that compliance with the Commission's wireless number portability rules would impose a significant financial burden on rural telecommunications providers without offering a significant benefit to consumers. Even though rural providers are not currently required to provide wireless number portability in their areas, these providers must still port numbers for

urban customers who roam into their coverage areas. The members also stated that there is much less consumer demand for wireless number portability than wireline number portability.

RTG members also expressed concerns regarding the requirement that certain Taxpayer Identification Numbers (TINs) be provided as part of the ULS system.

RTG members questioned the increase in CMRS regulatory fees given the streamlining of regulation and the Commission's reduced regulatory role in those services. These fees should be decreasing and not increasing. The members were concerned that other, non-regulatory costs, were being included in these regulatory fees.