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FEDERAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20541

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September 1, 1999

Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

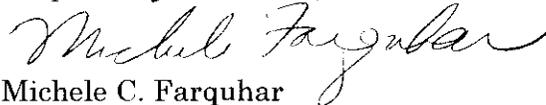
Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service
CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Salas:

On behalf of Western Wireless Corporation ("Western Wireless"), I am writing to notify you of an *ex parte* presentation made today by James Blundell, Regulatory Affairs, Western Wireless, and me to David Furth, Senior Legal Advisor in the Office of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Chief, regarding the above-captioned proceeding. We discussed issues already addressed in pleadings previously filed by Western Wireless.

We used the attached materials in connection with this presentation. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



Michele C. Farquhar
Counsel for Western Wireless Corporation

Enclosures

cc: David Furth, Esq.
ITS, Inc.

WESTERN WIRELESS CORPORATION
Presentation on Pending Universal Service Issues

- General: Need to ensure portable universal service program and opportunities for new entrants to become designated as universal service providers
- ETC Designation Process
 1. Status of WW's 13 state applications (including problems encountered)
 2. State process under section 214(e)(2) must be fixed
 - *South Dakota preemption petition* (chicken/egg, general problems)
 - *5th Circuit decision follow-up* (need for further FCC guidance)
 3. FCC must expeditiously designate carriers under 214(e)(6)
 - *Wyoming (e)(6) petition*
 - *Crow Reservation (e)(6) petition*
- Federal and State Universal Service Funding
 1. Background on WW's efforts, including Rural Task Force membership, universal service proceeding comments, NARUC/Jt. Bd. presentations
 2. Federal universal service funding issues
 - Service area size
 - Local usage and obstacles to new entrants/technologies (FNPRM)
 - *WW petition re "quirk" in timing of funding*
 - Wireless cost model
 3. State universal service funding issues
 - *Kansas preemption petition*
- Native American Issues
 - *Crow Reservation petition* (and WW's overall efforts, support)