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N A R U C
National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners

May 17, 2000

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Magalie Roman-Salas
FCC Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW, TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Re: **Ex Parte Comments:** Two Originals filed in the following Proceedings:

In the Matters of the 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review – Review of Depreciation Requirements for Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers; CC Docket No. ~~98-137~~; Ameritech Corporation Telephone Operating Companies' Continuing Property Records Audit, et. al.; CC Docket No. 99-117; GTE Telephone Operating Companies Release of Information Obtained During Joint Audit. AAD File No. 98-26

In the Matter of Coalition for Affordable Local and Long Distances Services (CALLS) Modified Proposal (DA 00-533); Access Charge Reform (CC Docket No. 96-262); Price Cap Performance Review for Local Exchange Carriers (CC Docket No. 94-1); Low-Volume Long Distance Users (CC Docket No. 99-249); and Federal-State Joint Board of Universal Service (CC Docket No. 96-45)

Dear Ms. Roman-Salas:

On May 15, 2000, Oregon Commissioner Joan H. Smith, Chairman of the NARUC Telecommunications Committee, spoke with the following FCC personnel by telephone.

Jordan Goldstein, Office of Commissioner Ness
Kyle Dixon, Office of Commissioner Powell
Dorothy Attwood, Office of the Chairman

On May 16, 2000, Commissioner Smith also spoke by phone with Sarah Whitesell, who is with the Office of Commissioner Tristani, and Rebecca Beynon, who is with the Office of Commissioner Furchtgott-Roth.

In all these calls, Commissioner Smith discussed NARUC's decision regarding the May 8, 2000, ILEC (CALLS proponents) ex parte filing. NARUC is deeply divided in its response to the letter. While many members accept the letter's assurances, others feel strongly that the assurances are inadequate, that a letter is not binding. Based on our lack of consensus on these issues, we choose not to comment further.

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Many states agree with NARUC's (April 17, 2000) initial comments; others do not, depending on their own rate-making policies. Nevertheless, NARUC stands by these comments. It is expected that individual states will continue to express their own views.

In addition, I sent an email to Commissioner Powell and Mr. Dixon on May 11, 2000. I explained potential confusion that might have arisen from various contacts with FCC personnel. I explained there is no official NARUC position on CALLS, due to our diverse interests and diverse regulatory approaches. Further, the comments filed through the Finance and Technology Committee are a legitimate statement of principles and concerns. Personally, I think there are solutions within CALLS or are already dealt with at the state level.

In accordance with Section 1.1206(a)(1) of the Commission's rules, two copies of this notice are being submitted to be filed in the above-captioned proceedings. Please include it in the public record of this proceeding. NARUC respectfully requests any waivers needed to file this notification out-of-time.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joan H. Smith", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joan H. Smith, Commissioner
Oregon Public Utility Commission

cc: Commissioner Bob Rowe
Brad Ramsay, General Counsel
Commissioner Bill Gillis
Commissioner Dave Svanda