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BEFORE THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board On Universal Service Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996	CC DOCKET NO. 96-45 CC DOCKET NO. <u>96-98</u>
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**PETITION BY THE IOWA UTILITIES BOARD
FOR EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY WAIVER**

The Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) hereby petitions the Commission to extend for a short period the previously-granted waiver of the Commission's requirement to create at least three geographic cost-related rate zones for interconnection and unbundled network elements (UNEs) by May 1, 2000. See 47 C.F.R. § 51.507(f) (2000). The Commission has allowed an extension of time to December 31, 2000, to create the required rate zones. The IUB now requests a further extension of approximately three weeks, to January 23, 2001.

This petition is filed pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 1.3 and paragraph 7 of the Commission's stay order in Deaveraged Rate Zones For Unbundled Network Elements, CC Docket No. 96-98, 14 FCC Rcd. 8300, 8300-01 (1999) (the "Stay Order").

The IUB has been diligent in its attempts to issue a decision and geographically deaverage the UNE rates of Qwest Communications, Inc. (Qwest),

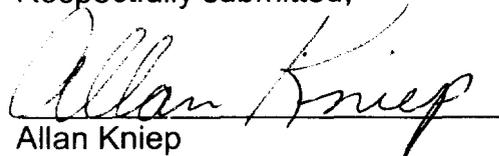
f/k/a U S WEST Communications, Inc., by December 31, 2000. The IUB convened a three-day hearing to receive evidence on October 9, 2000. The parties filed briefs and reply briefs in November, and the IUB and its staff have been preparing for a public decision meeting on December 14, 2000. However, the complex issues presented in this deaveraging docket, including the nature and number of UNEs to be deaveraged, the proposed geographic zones, the proper treatment of the exchanges Qwest is selling to Citizens Telecommunications of Iowa, retail rate deaveraging, and many other questions, have required more time and other resources than the IUB originally expected, and the IUB is re-scheduling its public decision meeting for the next available date, January 4, 2001.

Accordingly, the IUB hereby requests a temporary waiver of the requirement that UNE rates be geographically deaveraged to January 23, 2001. This will allow sufficient time after the public decision meeting to permit preparation and issuance of a written order. This limited extension will not harm the public interest and it will permit the IUB sufficient time to resolve the issues in a careful and fully-reasoned manner.

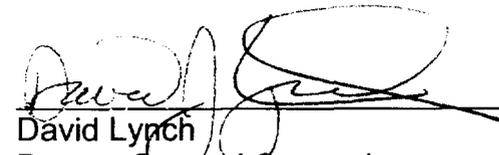
For the reasons stated, the IUB respectfully requests the FCC grant the IUB a limited waiver of the time to implement 47 C.F.R. §51.507(f), from the current date of December 31, 2000, to January 23, 2001.

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 13th day of December, 2000.

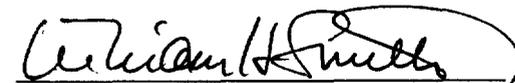
Respectfully submitted,



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