

RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS GROUP

advocate of rural wireless telecommunications providers

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

MEMORANDUM

To: Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission

From: Kenneth C. Johnson, Director - Regulatory and Legislative Affairs

Date: February 5, 2001

Re: *Ex Parte* Presentation – February 2, 2001

In re 2000 Biennial Regulatory Review, Spectrum Aggregation Limits for Commercial Mobile Radio Services,
WT Docket No. 01-14

In re Amendments of Parts 1, 2, 87, and 101 of the Commission's Rules to License Fixed Services at 24 GHz,
WT Docket No. 99-327

In re Local Competition and Broadband Reporting,
CC Docket No. 99-301

In re Amendment of the Commission's Rules with Regard to the 3650-3700 MHz Government Transfer Band et al Proposed rule 65 FR 69611, ET Docket No. 98-237, RM 9411, The 4.9 GHz Band Transferred from Government Use,
WT Docket No. 00-32

On February 2, 2001, Caressa D. Bennet, Brent Weingardt, and Kenneth C. Johnson of Bennet & Bennet, PLLC, representing the Rural Telecommunications Group (RTG), participated in a telephone call with William Kunze, Diane Conley, Rose Crellin, Elias Johnson, Michael Rowan, and William Huber of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Wireless Telecommunications Bureau concerning the above-referenced proceedings. Also representing RTG on the call were Mark Rutherford of Colorado Valley Telephone Cooperative, and Charles Gowder of Valley Telephone.

RTG noted that it has consistently advocated the removal of spectrum caps, especially in rural areas. RTG also reiterated its position with regard to the 3650-3700 MHz band that licenses should be auctioned in small geographic areas. RTG said that it supported the comments of the National Telephone Cooperative Association (NTCA) and the Small Business Administration (SBA) in the 3650-3700 MHz proceeding.

In the 25 GHz proceeding, RTG asked about the status of RTG's and other petitions for reconsideration and argued that the timing of Commission action on these proceedings was crucial to the development of business plans. In other words, a Commission decision regarding the petitions would be of more value if it came out prior to the auction notice.

Finally, RTG, while normally opposed to most regulatory data collections, supported the FCC's collection of broadband and local exchange competition data provided that competitively-sensitive information such as zip codes would remain confidential.

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please contact me at (202) 371-1500.

Sincerely,

/s/

Kenneth C. Johnson
Rural Telecommunications Group

cc: William Kunze
Diane Conley
Rose Crellin
Elias Johnson
William Huber
Michael Rowan