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March 21, 2001

Magalie Roman Salas  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Ex Parte* Presentation  
CC Docket Nos. 96-262 and 97-146

Dear Ms. Salas:

On March 20, 2001, the undersigned, on behalf of Sprint Corporation, spoke with Jeff Dygert of the Common Carrier Bureau regarding the issue of CLEC access charges in the above-referenced dockets. Sprint stated that it supported the position taken in AT&T's March 16, 2001 *ex parte* letter in CC Docket No. 96-262 — namely that the Commission should order mandatory detariffing of CLEC switched access services where the rates charged exceed the switched access rates of the ILEC serving that particular market, and allow permissive detariffing if the CLEC charges an access rate at or below such ILEC rate — with the caveat that Sprint believes that any CLEC agreements with IXCs for access should be publicly disclosed by the CLECs to reduce the likelihood that the CLECs might engage in unjust discrimination in the rates they charge to various IXCs. In the event the Commission is not prepared to adopt the ILEC benchmark rate immediately, then Sprint would also support AT&T's proposal for an immediate benchmark rate of 1.2 cents per minute, with quarterly reductions transitioning down to the ILEC level at the end of a 12-month period.

This letter is being filed electronically in both of the above-referenced dockets.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Juhnke", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

cc: Jeff Dygert