

ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED

APR 13 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

April 13, 2001



Ms. Dorothy Attwood  
Chief, Common Carrier Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, S.W., Room 5-C450  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service  
CC Docket No. 96-45 (Rural Task Force Recommendation) *and*

Multi-Association Group (MAG) Plan for Regulation of Interstate  
Service of Non-Price Cap Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers and  
Interexchange Carriers, et al., CC Docket Nos. 00-256, 96-45, 98-77,  
98-166 – Written Ex Parte

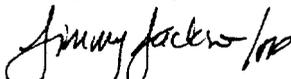
Dear Ms. Attwood:

General Communication, Inc. (GCI), fully supports the modified proposal of AT&T, Sprint, and Western Wireless, set out in their letter of April 13, 2001, in the above captioned matters (April 13 Letter). GCI urges the Commission to implement that modified proposal on July 1, 2001.

For the reasons generally described in the April 13 Letter, implementation of the three proposed interim steps is necessary and appropriate at this time. The proposal would reduce the disparity between rural and urban access charges and thus remove the existing impediment to the sustainability of nationwide geographic averaged long distance rates, while at the same time promoting universal service and protecting the cost recovery of rate-of-return carriers.

The proposal set forth in the April 13 Letter provides an appropriate means of implementing all aspects of the Rural Task Force (RTF) plan, including both universal service and access charge reform. For the reasons previously set out in our initial comments, partial implementation of the RTF plan, without access charge reform, is not in the public interest.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jimmy Jackson

GENERAL COMMUNICATION, INC.

No. of Copies rec'd 071  
List A B C D E

cc: Michael K. Powell, Chairman  
Harold Furchtgott-Roth, Commissioner  
Susan Ness, Commissioner  
Gloria Tristani, Commissioner  
Magalie Roman Salas, FCC Secretary  
Carol Matthey  
Jane Jackson  
Katherine Schroder  
Richard Lerner  
Sharon Webber