

**WALLMAN  
STRATEGIC CONSULTING, LLC**

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

1300 Connecticut Ave, N.W.,  
Suite 1000  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
www.wallman.com

voice 202.347.4964  
fax 202.347.4961

May 1, 2001

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

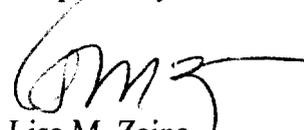
Re: Ex Parte Submission, CC Docket No. 96-45 ✓

Dear Ms. Salas:

On May 1, 2001, Lisa Zaina and Brett Tarnutzer of Wallman Strategic Consulting, LLC met with Sarah Whitesell, legal advisor to Commissioner Gloria Tristani, on behalf of Valor Telecommunications. We discussed the Rural Task Force proposal and the need to ensure that incentives are in place to allow the small and rural companies to continue making investments in their service areas. In particular, we discussed the deleterious effect on investment that would be caused by the overall freeze on a carrier's universal service funding upon entry of a competitor in its service area, and the importance of the safety valve and safety net additive mechanisms.

In accordance with the Commission's rules, I submit two copies for the record.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Lisa M. Zaina  
Vice President

Copy:  
Sarah Whitesell, Esq.

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