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ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

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Office of General Counsel

May 22, 2001

Hon. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Room TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC No. 01-145
Docket Nos. CC 96-45, CC 98-171, CC 90-571, CC 92-237 NSD File No. L-00-72, CC
99-200, CC 95-116

Dear Secretary Salas,

The Illinois Commerce Commission ("ICC") respectfully submits this letter in response to the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("NPRM") in the above-referenced matter that seeks comment on how to streamline and reform both the manner in which the Commission assesses carrier contributions to the universal service fund and the manner in which carriers may recover those costs from their customers. The ICC believes that the issues the Commission seeks to address in this NPRM, along with all other universal service related matters, are extremely important and deserve significant attention. However, the ICC is unable to comment on these issues at this time because the ICC is considering similar issues with regard to an intrastate universal service fund in ICC Docket No. 00-0233/00-0335, consolidated.

The ICC notes that the schedule in the referenced ICC proceeding currently anticipates an ICC order by early September, 2001. The ICC plans to submit an *ex parte* filing to the Commission following the issuance of the ICC order if the opportunity to do so exists at that time. The ICC looks forward to continuing to work with the Commission to achieve just and reasonable universal service support mechanisms that are fair to all consumers, as well as to net contributing and net receiving states.

Respectfully submitted,

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Special Assistant Attorney General

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