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September 13, 2001

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WTOP-AM & FM/Washington DC

Magalie Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W. Room TW-a325
Washington, DC 20054

RE: EX PARTE COMMUNICATION In the Matter of Notice of Proposed
Rulemaking, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45,
released May 8, 2001

Dear Madam Secretary:

As Chairperson of the FCC's Consumer/Disability Telecommunications Advisory
Committee, attached please find a Statement of Guiding Principles on Universal
Service adopted by the Committee at its August, 2001 meeting. The Committee
urges the Commission to consider these principles in connection with the above-
referenced proceeding. This is an Ex Parte communication filed pursuant to Sec.
1.1206 of the Commission's rules.

Sincerely,

Shirley Rooker
Chair, CDTAC

cc: Chairman Michael K. Powell
Commissioners:

Kathleen Q. Abernathy

Michael J. Copps

Kevin Martin

Enclosure

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Consumer/Disability Telecommunications Advisory Committee
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

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STATEMENT OF GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON UNIVERSAL SERVICE

Preamble:

The FCC should support the Consumer Information Bureau's ("CIB") efforts to engage early consumer and industry participation in future Universal Service Fund ("USF") proceedings and should take a forward-looking approach on USF issues in our rapidly evolving technological environment.

Principles:

- USF contributions and assessments should be calculated and disclosed in an easy-to-understand manner.
- USF contributions and assessments should be equitable among customers and among members of the telecommunications industry.
- The public should be educated on the social benefits of USF.
- When the Commission evaluates Comments to its USF NPRM, it should consider as a minimum maintaining the existing Lifeline exemptions and perhaps extending such exemptions where circumstances are appropriate.
- USF should not be a profit center. However, telecommunications companies should be able to recover reasonable and demonstrable administrative costs for supporting the USF program.

Adopted: August 6, 2001