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September 26, 2001

Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service;
Multi-Association Group (MAG) Plan;
CC Docket No. 96-45 and CC Docket No. 00-256 /**

Dear Ms. Salas:

The Competitive Universal Service Coalition ("CUSC") made an *ex parte* presentation today regarding the proceedings listed above to Sam Feder, legal advisor to Commissioner Martin. CUSC representatives in these meetings included Mark Rubin, Director-Federal Affairs of Western Wireless Corp.; David LaFuria of Lukas Nace Gutierrez & Sachs, Chtd., representing Smith Bagley, Inc.; and my colleague Michele Farquhar and me. The purpose of the meetings was to discuss CUSC's view that the Commission should act, as expeditiously as possible, to eliminate the implicit subsidies that rural incumbent local exchange carriers receive through interstate access charges, and to make any remaining support explicit and portable. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



David L. Sieradzki
Counsel for the Competitive Universal
Service Coalition

cc: Sam Feder