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October 4, 2001

Magalie Román Salas  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: *Ex parte* presentation in CC Docket Nos. 00-256, 96-45, 98-77, and 98-166

Dear Ms. Salas

Today, Karen Brinkmann and I, of Latham & Watkins, on behalf of CenturyTel, Inc., made an *ex parte* presentation in the above-referenced proceedings to the following members of the Competitive Pricing Division of the Common Carrier Bureau: Jane E. Jackson, Chief, Rich Lerner, Deputy Chief, Jay Atkinson, Chief Economist, and Marvin F. Sacks, Attorney.

In the meeting, we reiterated CenturyTel's support for the Multi-Association Group (MAG) process. In addition, we discussed CenturyTel's September 20, 2001, proposals: (1) to streamline the process of acquiring local exchange properties from larger carriers; and (2) to promote increased efficiency and spur rural investment. We also requested that the Commission adopt a reasonable transition period if it decides to increase the cap on subscriber line charges (SLCs) in these proceedings.

Pursuant to the Commission's rules, I am filing two copies of this letter for inclusion in the record of each of the above-referenced proceedings. Please contact me at (202) 637-2225 if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,



Richard R. Cameron  
of LATHAM & WATKINS

cc: Jane E. Jackson  
Rich Lerner  
Jay Atkinson  
Marvin F. Sacks