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COLUMBIA
BUSINESS
SCHOOL

Columbia University
Graduate School
of Business

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Columbia Institute for
Tele-Information

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May 21, 2001

Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary, Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
TW-B204
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: NOTICE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATION
CC Docket No. 01-92 (Unified Intercarrier Compensation)
CC Docket No. 96-262 (Reform of CLEC Access Charges)

Dear Secretary Roman Salas:

On Friday, May 18 the Columbia Institute for Tele-Information (CITI) held a workshop in Washington, D.C. on the topic of carrier-to-carrier interconnection compensation. CITI is an academic research institute affiliated with Columbia University's Business School.

Since members of the FCC staff attended the workshop and the subject of the workshop is related to the two above-referenced dockets, out of an abundance of caution CITI is filing notice of *ex parte* meetings (an original and three copies) on behalf of CITI and the workshop attendees.

Attached to this letter are:

1. the agenda for the workshop
2. a list of attendees

The workshop discussion was focused on the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 01-92 concerning the development of a unified intercarrier compensation regime.

A wide range of questions were raised during the discussion, including the following:

- Is the proposed Bill & Keep regime too interventionist? too prescriptive?
- What would be the role of the State PUCs? Should the FCC convene a Joint Conference? How will "jurisdictional separations" be affected?

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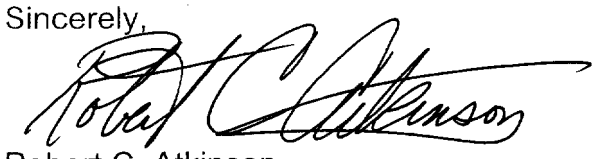
- Do LATA, MTA and even State boundaries have any relevance with Bill & Keep?
- Is it realistic to think that "the Internet" can be excluded from any rule?
- How would "Voice over the Internet" (VoIP) be treated? Would the ESP exemption from access charges be affected?
- What are the implications of a Bill & Keep regime on international communications traffic and on relations with other countries?
- What could go wrong with a Bill & Keep regime (i.e., unintended consequences)?
- Can the impact of a Bill & Keep regime on consumers, carriers, etc. be quantified in a consistent way?
- Would intercarrier compensation arrangements other than Bill & Keep be better?
- Does the Communications Act or other law need to be changed to accommodate an optimal interconnection compensation system?
- Do any FCC precedents need to be reconsidered or reinterpreted?

There was lively debate among attendees but no "answers" to these questions. Indeed, attendees were encouraged to raise these sorts of issues in their Comments and to suggest ways to resolve them.

Many industry attendees expressed concerns about "the enormity of the task" outlined by the NPRM. A number of participants suggested that a further NPRM would be necessary and desirable after the Commission receives and digests the Comments and Reply Comments associated with the initial NPRM. CITI volunteered to organize additional workshops focused on specific issues if attendees asked it to do so.

Sincerely,



Robert C. Atkinson
Executive Director
Columbia Institute for Tele-Information

Cc: Attendees (see attached list)
Paul Moon – Common Carrier Bureau
Jane Jackson – Common Carrier Bureau
International Transcription Service

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Attachment 1 (5/21/01 ex parte)

PROPOSED AGENDA (Rev. 1)

CITI'S INVITATION-ONLY WORKSHOP
ON
INTERCONNECTION PRICING

May 18, 2001
10:00am – 3:00pm

Meeting space courtesy of
Latham & Watkins
555 11th Street, NW
Suite 1000
Washington, DC

1. Introduction and Groundrules

2. General Reaction to FCC's NPRM, Recip Comp and CLEC Access Charge Orders
   a. Questions and clarifications
   b. Interrelationship of the "trilogy"
   c. Comment Schedule

3. Issues Invitees Want to Discuss
   a. What could go wrong with B&K? Can it create problems as significant as those it is supposed to cure?
   b. State-Federal Coordination: what if a State wants to go in a different direction?
   c. What sort of quantification can and should be included in Comments to assess B&K, other alternatives vs. status quo?
   d. What facts and data should be available for the FCC decision-makers?
   e. Additional topics raised at the meeting:

4. Next Steps
   a. "Electronic meetings" (demonstration of UnChat mediated text-conferencing)?
   b. Additional workshops?

CITI Interconnection Pricing Workshop
May 18, 2001

COLUMBIA BUSINESS SCHOOL

ATTENDEES

NAME	AFFILIATION
Atkinson, Jay	Federal Communications Commission
Atkinson, Robert	Columbia Institute for Tele-Information (CITI)
Barnekov, Chris	Federal Communications Commission
Blau, Robert	BellSouth
Candeub, Adam	Federal Communications Commission
Crandall, Robert	Brookings Institution
Darby, Larry	Darby Associates
DeGraba, Patrick	Charles River Associates
Dygert, Jeffrey	Federal Communications Commission
Epstein, Gary	Latham & Watkins
Gumper, Frank	Verizon
Guyer, Susan	Verizon
Hoskins, Anne	Verizon Wireless
Hunt, Bill	Level 3
Jackson, Jane	Federal Communications Commission
Jones, Thomas	Willkie Farr & Gallagher
Jordan, Stacy	Federal Communications Commission
Jordan, Whit	BellSouth
Juhnke, Dick	Sprint
Kent, Linda	United States Telecom Association (USTA)
Lee, Jonathan	Competitive Telecommunications Association (CompTel)

Leeper, Sarah	Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA)
Levin, Joseph	Federal Communications Commission
Lubin, Joel	AT&T
Metzger, Dick	FOCAL/Association for Local Telecommunications Services (ALTS)
Moon, Paul	Federal Communications Commission
Nakahata, John	Harris, Wiltshire & Grannis LLP
Noam, Eli	Columbia Institute for Tele-Information (CITI)
Northrop, Carl	Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP (for PCIA)
Noveck, Beth	Bodies Electric LLC/Information Society Project at Yale Law School
Pelcovits, Michael	WorldCom
Pies, Stacy	Level 3
Preiss, Tamara	Federal Communications Commission
Ramsay, Brad	National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC)
Schlichting, Jim	Federal Communications Commission
Sclater, Michelle	SBC Communications
Sharkey, William	Federal Communications Commission
Stockdale, Don	Federal Communications Commission
Strack, Walter	Federal Communications Commission
Vadas, Gregory	Federal Communications Commission
Wallman, Kathy	Wallman Strategic Consulting, LLC
Wiggins, Stanley	Federal Communications Commission
Wolfe, Peter	Federal Communications Commission