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South Dakota Public Utilities Commission



State Capitol Building, 500 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070

March 6, 2002

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Mr. William F. Caton
Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
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Gregory A. Rislov
Keith Senger
John Smith

Rolayne Ailts Wiest

RE: Ex Parte Comments: Two originals filed in In the Matter of Multi-Association Group (MAG) Plan for Regulation of Interstate Services of Non-Price Cap Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers and Interexchange Carriers, CC Docket No. 00-256; Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45; Access Charge Reform for Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers Subject to Rate-of-Return Regulation, CC Docket No. 98-77; Prescribing the Authorized Rate of Return For Interstate Services of Local Exchange Carriers, CC Docket No. 98-166

Dear Secretary Caton:

This letter is intended to comply with the FCC's rules on ex parte communications. The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (SDPUC) has submitted written ex parte comments in the above captioned proceedings concerning the South Dakota Telecommunications Association's (SDTA) Petition for Reconsideration of certain provisions of the Commission's Second Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 00-256, Fifteenth Report and Order in CC Docket No. 96-45, and Report and Order in CC Docket Nos. 98-77 and 98-166 (hereafter referred to as "MAG Order") (rel. November 8, 2001).

Enclosed are two copies of the written comments. If you have any questions about this correspondence, please do not hesitate to contact me at 605-773-3201.

Sincerely,

Rolayne Ailts Wiest

ROLAYNE AILTS WIEST
SDPUC ATTORNEY

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RE: Ex Parte Comments: Two originals filed in In the Matter of Multi-Association Group (MAG) Plan for Regulation of Interstate Services of Non-Price Cap Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers and Interexchange Carriers, CC Docket No. 00-256; Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45; Access Charge Reform for Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers Subject to Rate-of Return Regulation, CC Docket No. 98-77; Prescribing the Authorized Rate of Return For Interstate Services of Local Exchange Carriers, CC Docket No. 98-166

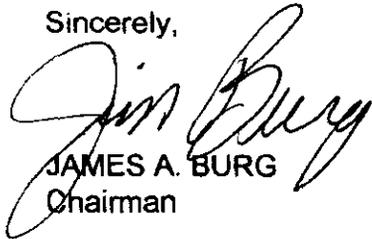
Dear Commissioners:

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (SDPUC) is writing this letter in support of the South Dakota Telecommunications Association's (SDTA) Petition for Reconsideration of certain provisions of the Commission's Second Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 00-256, Fifteenth Report and Order in CC Docket No. 96-45, and Report and Order in CC Docket Nos. 98-77 and 98-166 (hereafter referred to as "MAG Order") (rel. November 8, 2001).

give support to CETCs based on costs that are wholly divorced from the CETC's actual costs. The SDPUC fails to find any language in the federal Act which mandates that the Commission devise ways to subsidize competition in rural areas.

The SDPUC believes that SDTA, as a representative of South Dakota's rural carriers, has raised valid issues that need to be considered by the Commission. The SDPUC urges the Commission to grant SDTA's Petition for Reconsideration.

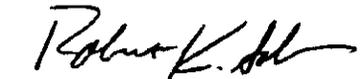
Sincerely,



JAMES A. BURG
Chairman



PAM NELSON
Commissioner



ROBERT K. SAHR
Commissioner

cc: Honorable Tom Daschle
Honorable Tim Johnson
Honorable John Thune
Ms. Dorothy Atwood, CCB