

LATHAM & WATKINS LLP

January 14, 2003

BY ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

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Re: *Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 00-256*¹
-- Notice of *Ex-Parte* Presentation in
CC Dockets 96-45, 98-77, 98-166 and 00-256

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Wednesday, January 8, Jeff Glover and John Jones of CenturyTel, Inc. and Richard Cameron of this office and I met with Jane Jackson and Jeff Dygert of the Wireline Competition Bureau to discuss the above-captioned proceeding, and the FCC's pending proposal to eliminate the price cap "all-or-nothing" rules. We discussed the proposals for changes to the Commission's Part 36, 54, 61 and 69 rules submitted by CenturyTel on December 23 in an *ex parte* letter in this proceeding. We urged prompt FCC action to eliminate the all-or-nothing rules and establish an appropriate, elective framework for rate-of-return carriers serving low-density markets to make the transition to price cap regulation on a study area basis.

Please direct any questions concerning this matter to me.

Very truly yours,



Karen Brinkmann

cc: Jane Jackson, Associate Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau
Jeffrey Dygert, Deputy Chief, Pricing Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau

¹ 16 FCC Rcd. 19613 (2001).