NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION
The Voice of Rural Telecommunications
www.ntca.org

March 14, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: *ExParte* Notice
In the Matter of Numbering Optimization, CC Docket No. 99-200, Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, CC Docket No. 96-98, Telephone Number Portability, CC Docket No. 95-116

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Thursday, March 13, 2003, Margot Humphrey of the National Rural Telecom Association (NRTA), Steve Pastorkovich of the Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies (OPASTCO), Ed Gustafson, Controller for Bixby Telephone Company, Bixby, Oklahoma, and Dan Mitchell of the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA) met with Matthew Brill, Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy.

At the meeting we discussed the positions presented by the Associations in their comments filed in the above-referenced dockets. The Associations urged the Commission not to require rural incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs) within the largest 100 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) to implement local number portability (LNP) until they have received a valid request for LNP from a competitor. The Associations emphasized that in areas where there is no competition or no request for LNP, requiring rural ILECs to implement LNP would only impose burdensome costs on the ILECs and their customers without any corresponding benefits to their communities.

Sincerely,

/s/ Daniel Mitchell
Daniel Mitchell

cc: Matthew Brill

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION
4121 Wilson Boulevard • Tenth Floor • Arlington, Virginia 22203
Phone/703.351.2000 • Fax/703.351.2001 • www.ntca.org