

RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS GROUP

advocate of rural wireless telecommunications providers

1000 Vermont Avenue, NW, 10th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

To: Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission

From: Caressa D. Bennet, General Counsel
Kenneth C. Johnson, Director – Legislative and Regulatory

Date: March 25, 2003

Re: *Ex Parte* Presentation – March 24, 2003

CC Docket No. 96-45

On March 24, 2003, Caressa D. Bennet and Kenneth C. Johnson of Bennet & Bennet, PLLC, representing the Rural Telecommunications Group (“RTG”), met with Lisa Zaina, Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein, to discuss the above-mentioned proceeding.

With regards to the universal service proceeding (CC Docket No. 96-45), RTG discussed the current state of the universal service fund and the increasing pressure on rural wireless carriers to seek federal universal service support.

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please communicate directly with the undersigned.

Sincerely,

/s/

Caressa D. Bennet
General Counsel, Rural Telecommunications Group

cc: Lisa Zaina

