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May 21, 2003

**EX PARTE – Via Electronic Filing**

Ms. Marlene Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 96-98

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Monday, May 19, 2003, Tina Pidgeon (of GCI) and I (on behalf of GCI) met separately with Lisa Zaina, Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Adelstein, Scott Bergmann of Commissioner Adelstein's office, and Matt Bill, Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Abernathy. In these meetings, we discussed ACS' petition for rulemaking regarding burden of proof in rural exemption cases. We stated that the RCA's decisions are currently on appeal to the Alaska Supreme Court. Oral argument was held on February 11, 2003. We also discussed GCI's comments filed in response to the Joint Board's Public Notice on high-cost support and ETC designation, summarizing GCI's filing therein. The attached document was given to each participant at the meetings.

In accordance with FCC rules, a copy of this letter is being filed electronically in each of the above-referenced dockets.

Sincerely,

/s/

John T. Nakahata

JTN/krs