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July 23, 2003

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
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c/o Vistronix, Inc.
236 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E.
Suite 110
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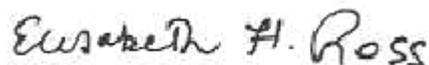
Re: Notice of Ex Parte Teleconference
CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On July 22, 2003, Joel Shifman, Senior Advisor to the Maine Public Utilities Commission (Maine PUC), Peter Bluhm, Director of Regulatory Policy of the Vermont Public Service Board (Vermont PSB) and I had a teleconference with William Scher, Assistant Chief, Telecommunications Access Policy Division. We discussed issues raised in the "Comments on Joint Board Recommended Decision by Montana Public Service Commission, Montana Consumer Counsel, Vermont Public Service Board, and Vermont Department of Public Service" that were filed in this docket on December 20, 2002. In particular, we discussed methods to achieve reasonable comparability for rural and urban rates required under Section 254(b)(3) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, this letter is being electronically filed with your office. If you have any questions concerning this submission, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,



Elisabeth H. Ross
Attorney for the Vermont Public Service Board

cc: William Scher