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August 8, 2003

### By Electronic Filing

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

Re: Notice of *Ex Parte* Communication in  
CC Docket Nos. 00-256, 96-45, 98-77, and 98-166

Dear Secretary Dortch:

On Thursday, August 7, 2003, John F. Jones, Vice President, Federal Government Relations, of CenturyTel, Inc. ("CenturyTel"), and Richard R. Cameron and I, both of Latham & Watkins, met with the following individuals concerning the Commission's pending Order and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the Commission's above-referenced proceedings:

*Office of Commissioner Abernathy:* Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy and Matthew Brill, Senior Legal Advisor

*Office of Commissioner Adelstein:* Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein, Scott Bergmann, Legal Advisor, and Jessica Rhea, Intern.

CenturyTel underscored the importance of this pending item and encouraged each Commissioner to act on it quickly. In addition, we distributed copies of CenturyTel's December 23, 2002 *ex parte* filing in the above referenced proceedings to Commissioner Adelstein and Mr. Bergmann.

Please direct any questions concerning this matter to me.

Very truly yours,



Karen Brinkmann

cc: Hon. Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Hon. Jonathan S. Adelstein,  
Matthew Brill  
Scott Bergmann  
Jessica Rhea