

LAW OFFICES

**BIRCH, HORTON, BITTNER AND CHEROT**

1155 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W. • SUITE 1200 • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 • TELEPHONE (202) 659-5800 • FACSIMILE (202) 659-1027

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

HAL R. HORTON (1944 - 1998)

RONALD G. BIRCH\*\*  
WILLIAM H. BITTNER  
KATHRYN A. BLACK  
SUZANNE CHEROT  
KATHLEEN TOBIN ERB  
DOUGLAS S. FULLER\*  
MAX D. GARNER  
GRETCHEN L. GASTON\*†  
DAVID KARL GROSS

TINA M. GROVIER  
WILLIAM P. HORN\*  
STEPHEN H. HUTCHINGS  
ROY S. JONES, JR.\*  
DANIEL C. KENT  
THOMAS F. KLINKNER  
HARVEY A. LEVIN\*†  
STANLEY T. LEWIS  
KEVIN J. McCREA

THOMAS M. McDERMOTT  
MICHELLE MESHKE  
BARBARA A. MILLER\*  
GREGORY A. MILLER  
PETER C. NOSEK\*\*  
MICHAEL J. PARISE  
TIMOTHY J. PETUMENOS  
ELISABETH H. ROSS\*\*  
HO SIK SHIN\*†

\* D.C. BAR  
\*\* D.C. AND ALASKA BAR  
† MARYLAND BAR  
‡ VIRGINIA BAR  
ALL OTHERS ALASKA BAR

1127 WEST SEVENTH AVENUE  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-3399  
(907) 276-1550  
FACSIMILE (907) 276-3680

September 11, 2003

***VIA ELECTRONIC FILING***

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
c/o Vistronix, Inc.  
236 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Suite 110  
Washington, D.C. 20002

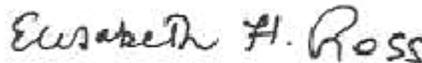
**Re: CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On September 10, 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 Bill Maher, Wireline Competition Bureau Chief, Carol Matthey, Wireline Competition Bureau Deputy Chief, Katie King, Wireline Competition Bureau, Telecommunications Access attorney, and Geoff Waldau, Wireline Competition Bureau, Telecommunications Access Economist, on issues related to universal service support for Vermont and Maine costumers. These issues included the impact on Vermont and Maine of changes that the FCC staff had made to the model and support formula, need for a sustainable and theoretically sound model, and continuing needs for support by Vermont and Maine customers.

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