

September 17, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., TW-A325  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: *Ex Parte* Notice**

In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Tuesday, September 16, 2003, Daniel Mitchell and Scott Reiter with the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA) met with Christopher Libertelli, Legal Advisor to FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell.

We discussed NTCA's proposed 7-Point Public Interest Test for designating eligible telecommunications carriers in rural ILEC service areas. In addition, we discussed the highlights of a paper by Dale Lehman, *Universal Service and the Myth of the Level Playing Field*. Copies of handouts provided at the meeting are attached.

In accordance with the Commission's rules, an original and two copies of this letter are being filed with the Secretary's Office. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 703-351-2016.

Sincerely,

/s/ Daniel Mitchell  
Senior Regulatory Counsel  
Legal and Industry

cc: Christopher Libertelli  
Attachments