

HOGAN & HARTSON  
L.L.P.

DAVID L. SIERADZKI  
PARTNER  
(202) 637-6462  
DLSIERADZKI@HHLAW.COM

COLUMBIA SQUARE  
555 THIRTEENTH STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20004-1109  
TEL (202) 637-5600  
FAX (202) 637-5910  
WWW.HHLAW.COM

December 22, 2003

Marlene Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth St., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service,  
CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On December 18, 2003, Mark Rubin and I (on behalf of Western Wireless Corp.) and Glenn Rabin (on behalf of ALLTEL Communications, Inc.) made an *ex parte* presentation to Jessica Rosenworcel, legal advisor to Commissioner Copps, regarding the above-captioned proceeding. We focused on the standards for designating eligible telecommunications carriers ("ETCs") in the context of the pending ETC applications of Virginia Cellular, Highland Cellular, and others. We handed out copies of materials previously filed in the record.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Respectfully submitted,



David L. Sieradzki  
Counsel for Western Wireless Corp.

cc: Jessica Rosenworcel