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April 22, 2004

**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Room TW-B204  
Washington, DC 20554

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

Dear Madam Secretary:

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. Section 1.1206, we hereby provide you with notice of an oral *ex parte* presentation in connection with the above-captioned proceeding. On April 20, 2004, undersigned counsel met with Matt Brill, Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Abernathy and Darah Smith.

In our meeting, we discussed the petition of Highland Cellular, Inc. for ETC designation in the Commonwealth of Virginia, specifically, whether the Commission's decision is competitively neutral and consistent with longstanding and established law. We also discussed the status of pending petitions for ETC status filed by Guam Cellular and Paging and Smith Bagley, Inc. We also discussed the upcoming NPRM following the recent Joint Board recommendation. No materials were distributed at the meeting.

We trust that you will find this information to be useful. Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact undersigned counsel directly.

Sincerely,  
/s/  
David A. LaFuria

cc: Matt Brill, Esq.  
Ms. Darah Smith