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October 25, 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. § 1.1206, we hereby provide you with notice of an oral *ex parte* presentation in connection with the above-captioned proceeding.

On Thursday, October 21, 2004, undersigned counsel, along with Kimball L. Kenway, Esq., of Curtis Thaxter Stevens Broder & Micoleau LLC (Portland, Maine), and Everett B. Flannery, Jr., Sheriff of Kennebec County, Maine, met with Matthew Brill, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy, to discuss the pending petition by RCC Minnesota, Inc. ("RCC") for FCC concurrence with the Maine PUC's proposal to redefine rural ILEC service areas pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.207(c).

Sheriff Flannery described the difficulties faced by public safety and law enforcement personnel who are hampered by poor cellular coverage in Maine's most rural areas. Undersigned counsel and Mr. Kenway urged prompt action by the Commission and made statements consistent with RCC's comments to the Commission in connection with its pending petition.

Copies of the materials distributed at the meeting, as well as a map that was displayed during the meeting, are attached hereto. If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact undersigned counsel directly.

Marlene H. Dortch
October 25, 2004
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Sincerely,

/s/

David A. LaFuria
Steven M. Chernoff

cc: Matthew Brill, Esq.