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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 Wednesday, October 20, 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 Narda Jones, Thomas Buckley, and Robert Tanner of the Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, and Frank Stilwell and James Swartz of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, 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.

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Sincerely,

/s/

David A. LaFuria  
Steven M. Chernoff

cc: Narda Jones, Esq.  
Thomas Buckley, Esq.  
Robert Tanner, Esq.  
Frank Stilwell, Esq.  
James Swartz, Esq.