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June 28, 2005

Via Electronic Mail

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

**Re: Notice of *Ex Parte* Presentation
WT Docket No. 00-193**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On June 27, 2005, Caressa D. Bennet and Kenneth C. Johnson, on behalf of the Rural Telecommunications Group, Inc. ("RTG"), met with Paul Murray, Scott Delacourt, Cathy Seidel, D'Wana Terry, Nese Guendelsberger, and Eli Johnson of the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC" or "Commission") regarding the above-mentioned proceeding. Ms. Bennet and Mr. Johnson discussed the RTG Petition for Action on automatic roaming for commercial mobile radio service ("CMRS") providers filed on November 1, 2004, and emphasized the need for the Commission to examine roaming with regards to small, rural carriers and their relationships with large, nationwide carriers. Specifically, Ms. Bennet suggested that automatic roaming, at just and reasonable rates, should be mandated in order to assure seamless communications for customers throughout the United States.

Ms. Bennet and Mr. Johnson pointed out how recent wireless industry consolidation had resulted in limited roaming partner options for small, rural carriers. Further, such consolidation had allowed large, nationwide CMRS carriers to use their increased market power to demand asymmetrical roaming rates from small, rural carriers. In certain cases, rural carriers must pay over five times as much to allow their customers to roam on nationwide carrier networks as the nationwide carriers pay to roam on rural networks. Ms. Bennet maintained that such rates were unjust and unreasonable and did not reflect the true cost of utilizing the nationwide carriers' networks.

Ms. Bennet and Mr. Johnson noted that an automatic roaming mandate should only be applicable to small and "rural" markets where roaming partner options are at a minimum. Ms. Bennet suggested that the Commission consider a "Tier IV" category of CMRS providers that would consist solely of CMRS carriers with 100,000 customers or less. Such Tier IV providers would be entitled to automatic roaming in rural markets with large, nationwide carriers at reasonable symmetrical rates as a "check" against the abuse of market power by large carriers where they dominate the market.

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Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's Rules, this letter is being filed electronically. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please communicate directly with the undersigned.

Sincerely,

_____/s/_____

Kenneth C. Johnson

cc: Paul Murray
Scott Delacourt
Cathy Seidel
D'Wana Terry
Nese Guendelsberger
Eli Johnson