

**EX PARTE**

October 21, 2005

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Room TW B-204  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

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

*SBC/AT&T Applications for Approval for Transfer of Control, WC Docket No.*  
*05-65*

*Verizon/MCI Applications for Approval for Transfer of Control, WC Docket*  
*No. 05-75*

*Request for Declaratory Ruling that State Commissions May Not Regulate*  
*Broadband Internet Access Services, WC Docket No. 03-251*

*Appropriate Framework for Broadband Access to the Internet over Wireline*  
*Services, CC Docket, No. 02-33*

*Review of Regulatory Requirements for Incumbent LEC Broadband Tele-*  
*communications Services, CC Docket, No. 01-337*

*Petition for Declaratory Ruling, WT Docket No. 05-7*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Yesterday George Gilder, Bret Swanson and the undersigned met with Chairman Kevin Martin and Catherine Bohigian to discuss promoting investment in telecommunications through deregulation. During the course of the discussion, comments were made in support of reducing the size of the High Cost Fund, urging prompt action by the Commission on the above-referenced petition for declaratory ruling and urging approval of the above-referenced applications without conditions.

Sincerely,

/s/

Hance Haney  
Director & Senior Fellow  
Democracy & Technology Project