



June 12, 2006

VIA ECFS

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Notice of Written *Ex Parte*: WC Dockets 05-261 and 06-74

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Fones4All Corporation (“Fones4All”) submits this *ex parte* letter for inclusion in the above referenced dockets. On May 12 the Commission released two reports that show that telephone subscribership in the U.S. is continuing to decline, even when wireless substitution is taken into account.¹

The latest Commission data shows that as of November 2005 the percentage of U.S. households with telephone service of any kind fell from 94% to 92.9% from July 2005 to November 2005, continuing a disturbing trend. Furthermore, the Commission’s data shows that telephone subscribership varies significantly among racial groups, with phone service present in 93.9% of households headed by whites, in 86.7% of households headed by blacks, and in 89.2% of households headed by Hispanics. In addition, the Commission’s data shows that telephone subscribership rates in each state vary significantly by income, and that nationwide, only 86.4% of low-income households have phone service, compared with 93.6% percent of all households.

In light of the identifiable trend in the Commission’s own data showing declining numbers of households in the United States with basic telephone service and only one third of eligible households enrolled in the Lifeline program, the Commission should “take all possible steps to ensure that low income consumers are not barred from using available support on the

¹ See News, “FCC Releases New Telephone Subscribership Report” (May 12, 2006). Fones4All hereby incorporates into these dockets in their entirety both reports by reference (“Telephone Subscribership In the United States” and “Telephone Penetration by Income By State”). Since the March 2005 report the questions used to gather the data have been revised to take into account the availability of wireless telephones.

basis of the specific technologies they wish to use or the specific business plans pursued by their service providers.”²

Sincerely,



Ross A. Buntrock

cc:

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² See *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Petition of TracFone Wireless, Inc. for Forbearance from 47 USC §214(e)(1)(A) and 47 CFR §54.201(i)*, Order, 20 FCC Rcd 150095 (2005) Statement of Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy. (“*TracFone Order*”).