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January 18, 2007

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Portals II, Room TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

**EX PARTE NOTICE**

*Re: High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337; Special Access Rates for Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers, WC Docket No. 05-25; Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Petition of Cingular Wireless, LLC for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the Commonwealth of Virginia, CC Docket No. 96-45; IP-Enabled Services, WC Docket No. 04-36.*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On January 17, 2007, David Bartlett, Brian Adkins, and I, on behalf of Embarq Corporation, met with Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate and her legal advisor Ian Dillner to discuss matters in the above-referenced dockets.

We discussed how universal service support could be better targeted to truly high-cost areas and tied to the carrier-of-last-resort obligation. We also discussed how special access markets are competitive, and how consumers would benefit from granting Embarq and other regulated carriers increased pricing flexibility to respond to competition. We also discussed the merits of Cingular's petition for designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in Virginia; our discussion on this issue was consistent with Embarq's prior filings in the relevant docket. Finally, we discussed the inverse relationship between network neutrality mandates and rural broadband deployment.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules, one copy of this electronic notice is being filed in the above-referenced docket. Please call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey S Lanning  
Director – Federal Regulatory

cc: Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
Ian Dillner