



FILED/ACCEPTED
JUL 25 2007
June 11, 2007
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

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

Re: In the Matter of High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337, In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch:

We are writing this letter to the Commission to endorse the recommendation of the Joint Board on Universal Service to place an interim, emergency cap on the amount of high-cost universal service support that competitive eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) may receive. High-cost loop support to rural incumbent ETCs is already capped. We agree with the Joint Board that an interim cap on competitive ETC support is appropriate until long term reform measures are implemented to ensure the long term sustainability of the universal service fund.

We appreciate the leadership of Commissioner Tate and the other members of the Joint Board and Staff as they consider the difficult questions associated with the distribution mechanism for universal service support.

We believe that this first step is the best way to begin a process to preserve universal service for the benefit of consumers in Texas. Without this critical action and leadership on the part of the Joint Board the benefits that universal service provides to my rural customers would be in serious jeopardy.

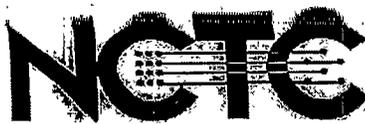
Sincerely,

Alan Rohmer
CFO – Nortex Communications

cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Senator John Cornyn
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison

Nortex Communications Co.
205 North Walnut Street
P.O. Box 587
Muenster, Texas 76252

www.nortex.net
E-mail: info@nortex.net
Office: 940/759-2251
Fax: 940/759-5557



Nebraska Central Telephone Company
 PO Box 700 * Gibbon, Nebraska 68840-0700 * 308.468.6341 * Fax 308.468.9929

June 7, 2007

FILED/ACCEPTED

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

JUL 25 2007

Federal Communications Commission
 Office of the Secretary

Re: In the Matter of High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. ~~05-337~~ In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing this letter to the Commission to endorse the recommendation of the Joint Board on Universal Service to place an interim, emergency cap on the amount of high-cost universal service support that competitive eligible telecommunications carriers may receive.

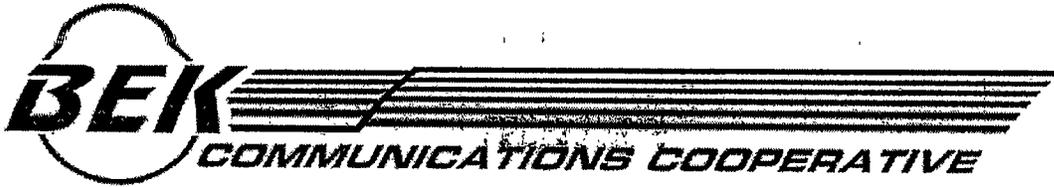
I appreciate the leadership of Commissioner Tate and the other members of the Joint Board and Staff as they consider the difficult questions regarding universal service support.

This first step is the best way to begin a process to preserve universal service for the benefit of consumers in Nebraska, and specifically Nebraska Central Telephone Company (Company). The Company serves approximately 6,500 customers in an area covering 3,300 square miles and the funds help us provide the services the customers need to succeed in rural America. Without the leadership on the part of the Joint Board the benefits that universal service provides to my rural customers could be in serious jeopardy.

Sincerely,

Andrew D. Jader
 Vice President - Administration

- cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin
- Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
- Commissioner Michael J. Copps
- Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
- Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
- Hon. Ray Baum
- Hon. Larry S. Landis
- Hon. Lisa Polak Edgar
- Hon. John D. Burke
- Hon. Billy Jack Gregg
- Senator Ben Nelson
- Senator Chuck Hagel
- Congressman Adrian Smith



June 8, 2007

FILED/ACCEPTED

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

JUL 25 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Re: **In the Matter of High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337, In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45**

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We are writing this letter to the Commission to endorse the recommendation of the Joint Board on Universal Service to place an interim, emergency cap on the amount of high-cost universal service support that competitive eligible telecommunications carriers may receive.

We appreciate the leadership of Commissioner Tate and the other members of the Joint Board and Staff as they consider the difficult questions associated with the distribution mechanism for universal service support.

We believe that this first step is the best way to begin a process to preserve universal service for the benefit of consumers in North Dakota. Without this critical action and leadership on the part of the Joint Board the benefits that universal service provides to my rural customers would be in serious jeopardy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Derrick F. Bulawa", is written over a horizontal line.

Derrick F. Bulawa
CEO, BEK Communications Cooperative

cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Hon. Ray Baum
Hon. Larry S. Landis
Hon. Lisa Polak Edgar
Hon. John D. Burke
Hon. Billy Jack Gregg

Senator (member of the Senate Commerce Committee)
Other *State Congressional Delegation*



FILED/ACCEPTED

June 8, 2007

JUN 25 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

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

Re: In the Matter of High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket Nos. 05-237; In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch:

We are writing this letter to the Commission to endorse the recommendation of the Joint Board on Universal Service to place an interim, emergency cap on the amount of high-cost universal service support that competitive eligible telecommunications carriers may receive.

We appreciate the leadership of Commissioner Tate and the other members of the Joint Board and Staff as they consider the difficult questions associated with the distribution mechanism for universal service support.

We believe that this first step is the best way to begin a process to preserve universal service for the benefit of consumers in South Dakota. Without this critical action and leadership on the part of the Joint Board the benefits that universal service provides to my rural customers would be in serious jeopardy.

Sincerely,
Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc.

George Strandell, General Manager/CEO

cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Hon. Ray Baum
Hon. Larry S. Landis
Hon. Lisa Polak Edgar
Hon. John D. Burke
Hon. Billy Jack Gregg

Senator John Thune
Senator Tim Johnson
Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin



FILED/ACCEPTED

JUN 25 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

ROYCE S. ASLAKSON
CEO/General Manager
June 8, 2007

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

Re: **In the Matter of High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-~~337~~ 337, In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

We are writing this letter to the Commission to endorse the recommendation of the Joint Board on Universal Service to place an interim, emergency cap on the amount of high-cost universal service support that competitive eligible telecommunications carriers may receive.

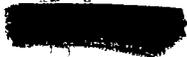
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We believe that this first step is the best way to begin a process to preserve universal service for the benefit of consumers in North Dakota. Without this critical action and leadership on the part of the Joint Board the benefits that universal service provides to my rural customers would be in serious jeopardy.

Sincerely,

CEO/General Manager, Reservation Telephone Cooperative

cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Hon. Ray Baum
Hon. Larry S. Landis
Hon. Lisa Polak Edgar
Hon. John D. Burke
Hon. Billy Jack Gregg
Senator Byron Dorgan
Senator Kent Conrad
Congressman Earl Pomeroy



From: Jay Griswold [jay@mdtc.net]
Sent: Friday, June 08, 2007 1:51 PM
To: Deborah Tate
Cc: Kevin Martin; Jonathan Adelstein; Michael Copps; Robert McDowell
Subject: I SUPPORT THE CETC USF CAP

FILED/ACCEPTED

JUL 25 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

June 8, 2007

Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room 8-A204
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: In the Matter of High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337; In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45

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I appreciate your leadership and that of the other members of the Joint Board and staff as you consider the difficult questions associated with the distribution mechanism for universal service support.

We believe that this first step is the best way to begin a process to preserve universal service for the benefit of consumers. Without this critical action and leadership on the part of the Joint Board, the benefits that universal service provides to rural consumers would be in serious jeopardy.

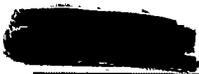
Sincerely,

Jay P. Griswold



cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

7/16/2007



From: Kandy Wright [kandy@midcentury.com]
Sent: Friday, June 08, 2007 2:46 PM
To: Deborah Tate
Cc: Kevin Martin; Jonathan Adelstein; Michael Copps; Robert McDowell
Subject: I SUPPORT THE CETC USF CAP

FILED/ACCEPTED

JUL 25 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

June 8, 2007

Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room 8-A204
Washington, D.C. 20554

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We believe that this first step is the best way to begin a process to preserve universal service for the benefit of consumers. Without this critical action and leadership on the part of the Joint Board, the benefits that universal service provides to rural consumers would be in serious jeopardy.

Sincerely,

Kandy S. Wright
Mid Century Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Phone 309-778-8611
Fax 309-783-3297
kandy@midcentury.com
www.midcentury.com

"This e-mail is intended solely for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential and/or privileged information. Any review, dissemination, copying, printing, or other use of this e-mail by persons or entities other than the addressee is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please contact the sender immediately and delete the material from your computer."

7/16/2007



From: Christina [christin@midcentury.com]
Sent: Friday, June 08, 2007 2:46 PM
To: Deborah Tate
Cc: Kevin Martin; Jonathan Adelstein; Michael Copps; Robert McDowell
Subject: I SUPPORT THE CETC USF CAP

FILED/ACCEPTED

JUL 25 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

June 8, 2007

Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room 8-A204
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337;
In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No.
96-45**

Dear Commissioner Tate:

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I appreciate your leadership and that of the other members of the Joint Board and staff as you consider the difficult questions associated with the distribution mechanism for universal service support.

We believe that this first step is the best way to begin a process to preserve universal service for the benefit of consumers. Without this critical action and leadership on the part of the Joint Board, the benefits that universal service provides to rural consumers would be in serious jeopardy.

Sincerely,

**Christina Grigsby
Mid Century Telephone Co-Operative**

"This e-mail is intended solely for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential and/or privileged information. Any review, dissemination, copying, printing, or other use of this e-mail by persons or entities other than the addressee is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please contact the sender immediately and delete the material from your computer."





Consolidated
Reach the World, from here.

June 8, 2007

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JUL 25 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room 8-A204
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC
Docket No. 05-337; In the Matter of Federal-State Joint
Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45**

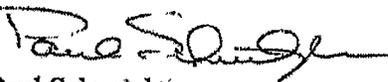
Dear Commissioner Tate:

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I appreciate your leadership and that of the other members of the Joint Board and staff as you consider the difficult questions associated with the distribution mechanism for universal service support.

We believe that this first step is the best way to begin a process to preserve universal service for the benefit of consumers. Without this critical action and leadership on the part of the Joint Board, the benefits that universal service provides to rural consumers would be in serious jeopardy.

Sincerely,



Paul Schuetzler
General Manager/CEO
Consolidated Telcom

cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

507 South Main

Dickinson, ND 58601

701-483-4000

Fax 701-483-0001

1-888-225-5282

www.ctctel.com

Consolidated
Telcom

Consolidated
Enterprises, Inc.

Consolidated
Communications
Corporation

Consolidated
Cable Vision, Inc.

Consolidated
Communications
Networks, Inc.

June 8, 2007

Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
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Sincerely,
Connie W. DeRouen
Assistant General Manager
Cameron Communications, LLC

cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

From: Amanda Stotts [AmandaStotts@adams.net]
Sent: Friday, June 08, 2007 3:06 PM
To: Deborah Tate
Cc: Kevin Martin; Jonathan Adelstein; Michael Copps; Robert McDowell; Jim Broemmer
Subject: I SUPPORT THE CETC USF CAP

June 8, 2007

Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room 8-A204
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

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Sincerely,

Amanda Stotts
Adams Telephone Co-Operative

cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell



Connected to
Our Communities

Amanda Stotts
Marketing Director

405 Emminga Road
P.O. Box 217
Golden, IL 62339

7/16/2007

From: Donnie [donniet@midcentury.com]
Sent: Friday, June 08, 2007 3:11 PM
To: Deborah Tate
Cc: Kevin Martin; Jonathan Adelstein; Michael Copps; Robert McDowell
Subject: I SUPPORT THE CETC USF CAP

FILED/ACCEPTED

JUL 25 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room 8-A204
Washington, D.C. 20554

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We believe that this first step is the best way to begin a process to preserve universal service for the benefit of consumers. Without this critical action and leadership on the part of the Joint Board, the benefits that universal service provides to rural consumers would be in serious jeopardy.

Sincerely,

Donald B. Taylor Jr.
MidCentury Telephone Co-op

cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

Donnie Taylor

MCTC

309.778.8611 - OFFICE

309.783.3297 - FAX

donniet@midcentury.com

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7/16/2007

privileged information. Any review, dissemination, copying, printing, or other use of this e-mail by persons or entities other than the addressee is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please contact the sender immediately and delete the material from your computer."

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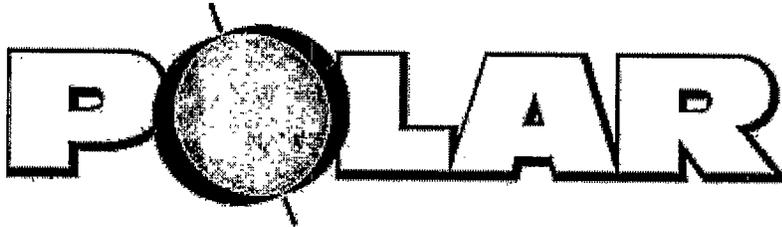
05-337

From: Carol LaHaise [clahaise@polartel.com]
Sent: Friday, June 08, 2007 3:28 PM
To: Deborah Tate; Kevin Martin; Jonathan Adelstein; Michael.Copps@fcc.gov; Robert McDowell
Cc: Dave Dunning
Subject: I SUPPORT THE CETC USF CAP
Attachments: image001.jpg

FILED/ACCEPTED

JUL 25 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary



PO Box 270 / 110 4^t

From: Bill Buchanan [buchanan@mdtc.net]
Sent: Friday, June 08, 2007 5:39 PM
To: Deborah Tate
Cc: Kevin Martin; Jonathan Adelstein; Michael Copps; Robert McDowell
Subject: RE:CC Docket No. 96-45 WC Docket No. 05-337
Attachments: June 8.docx

FILED/ACCEPTED

JUL 25 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

June 8, 2007

Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room 8-A204
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: In the Matter of High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337; In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Tate:

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I appreciate your leadership and that of the other members of the Joint Board and staff as you consider the difficult questions associated with the distribution mechanism for universal service support.

We believe that this first step is the best way to begin a process to preserve universal service for the benefit of consumers. Without this critical action and leadership on the part of the Joint Board, the benefits that universal service provides to rural consumers would be in serious jeopardy.

Sincerely,

Bill Buchanan, General Manager
McDonough Telephone Cooperative Association, Inc.

cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

7/16/2007

June 8, 2007

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

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

Re: In the Matter of High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337; In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45

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We appreciate the leadership of Commissioner Tate and the other members of the Joint Board and Staff as they consider the difficult questions associated with the distribution mechanism for universal service support.

We believe that this first step is the best way to begin a process to preserve universal service for the benefit of consumers in Iowa. Without this critical action and leadership on the part of the Joint Board the benefits that universal service provides to my rural customers would be in serious jeopardy.

Sincerely,

David Halverson, Vice-President

cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Hon. Ray Baum
Hon. Larry S. Landis
Hon. Lisa Polak Edgar
Hon. John D. Burke
Hon. Billy Jack Gregg
Senator Charles Grassley
Senator Tom Harkin

From: Jane Fogle [porter4@ptcnet.net]
Sent: Friday, June 08, 2007 4:26 PM
To: Deborah Tate
Subject: High Cost Universal Service
Attachments: Jane Fogle.vcf

FILED/ACCEPTED

JUL 25 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

June 8, 2007

Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room 8-A204
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: In the Matter of High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337; In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45

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I appreciate your leadership and that of the other members of the Joint Board and staff as you consider the difficult questions associated with the distribution mechanism for universal service support.

We believe that this first step is the best way to begin a process to preserve universal service for the benefit of consumers. Without this critical action and leadership on the part of the Joint Board, the benefits that universal service provides to rural consumers would be in serious jeopardy.

Sincerely,

Mary Jane Fogle
Pierce Telephone Co., Inc.
Pierce, NE. 68767

cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

7/16/2007



West River Cooperative Telephone Co.

801 Coleman Ave. P. O. Box 39 Bison, SD 57620

June 8, 2007

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

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Federal Communications Commission
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Re: **In the Matter of High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337; In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45**

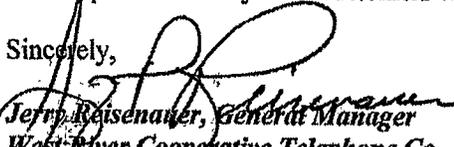
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Sincerely,


Jerry Baisenaar, General Manager
West River Cooperative Telephone Co.
P. O. Box 39
Bison, SD 57620
(605) 244-5213

cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Hon. Ray Baum
Hon. Larry S. Landis
Hon. Lisa Polak Edgar
Hon. John D. Burke
Hon. Billy Jack Gregg

Senator John Thune
Senator Tim Johnson
Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin

From: Julie Allen [JulieAllen@adams.net]
Sent: Friday, June 08, 2007 4:38 PM
To: Deborah Tate
Cc: Kevin Martin; Jonathan Adelstein; Michael Copps; Robert McDowell
Subject: I SUPPORT THE CETC USF CAP

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JUL 25 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

June 8, 2007

Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room 8-A204
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Sincerely,

Julie Allen
ADAMS TELEPHONE CO-OPERATIVE

cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

FILED/ACCEPTED

JUL 25 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Polar Communications | Polar C

June 8, 2007

Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room 8-A204
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-~~337~~
337, In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC
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Dear Commissioner Tate:

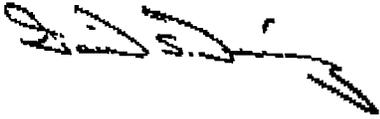
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Sincerely,

7/16/2007



David L. Dunning
General Manager/CEO

cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

7/16/2007

From: Bruce and Wanda Eddington [bwe@adams.net]
Sent: Saturday, June 09, 2007 10:16 AM
To: Deborah Tate
Cc: Kevin Martin; Jonathon.Adelstein@fcc.gov; Michael Copps; Robert McDowell; Jim Broemmer
Subject: I SUPPORT THE CETC USF CAP

FILED/ACCEPTED

JUL 25 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Bruce Eddington (bwe@adams.net)
Date: June 9, 2007
To: Deborah.Tate@fcc.gov
Cc: <Kevin.Martin@fcc.gov>, <Jonathon.Adelstein@fcc.gov>, <Michael.Copps@fcc.gov>, <Robert.McDowell@fcc.gov>
Subject: I SUPPORT THE CETC USF CAP

June 9, 2007

Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room 8-A204
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: In the Matter of High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337; In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Tate:

I am writing to endorse the recommendation of the Joint Board on Universal Service to place an interim, emergency cap on the amount of high-cost universal service support that competitive eligible telecommunications carriers may receive.

I appreciate your leadership and that of the other members of the Joint Board and staff as you consider the difficult questions associated with the distribution mechanism for universal service support.

We believe that this first step is the best way to begin a process to preserve universal service for the benefit of consumers. Without this critical action and leadership on the part of the Joint Board, the benefits that universal service provides to rural consumers would be in serious jeopardy.

Sincerely,
Bruce Eddington
Board of Directors
Adams Telephone Co-operative

7/16/2007

405 Emminga Road
PO Box 217
Golden IL 62339-0217
217-696-4411

cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

From: Eric Schmidt [eschmidt@corp.hometel.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2007 11:01 AM
To: Deborah Tate
Subject: Thank You Commissioner Tate

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JUL 25 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

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

Re: In the Matter of High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337; In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I would like to thank and praise Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate for her outstanding leadership as chair of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service (Joint Board) and for her eloquent testimony before the Senate Commerce Committee on June 12, 2007. I also would like to express my full support of the Joint Board's recommendation to place an interim, emergency cap on the amount of high-cost universal service support that competitive eligible telecommunications carriers (CETCs) will receive over the next 18 months. The Joint Board's proposed interim cap will secure the near-term sustainability of the high-cost Universal Service Fund (USF). This is a necessary first step toward long-term USF reform that must be taken to sustain affordable communications services for generations to come.

The proposed interim measure will relieve the rapidly growing pressure on the high-cost USF mechanism resulting from the explosive growth in CETC USF support. Adopting the 18-month interim CETC USF cap will provide the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) enough time to develop and implement long-term USF reform measures without risking the sustainability of the fund or public safety.

This is the best way to begin a process to preserve universal service for the benefit of all consumers. Without this critical interim action and the leadership of Commissioner Tate the benefits that universal service provides to consumers would be in serious jeopardy in the very near future. For these reasons, I urge Chairman Martin and Commissioners Copps, Adelstein and McDowell to support Commissioner Tate and adopt the Joint Board's proposed emergency, interim cap on CETC high-cost universal service support.

7/16/2007

Sincerely,

Eric Schmidt
President
Home Telephone Co., Illinois

cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate

7/16/2007