



INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE & TELECOMMUNICATIONS ALLIANCE

October 29, 2007

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20054

Re: NOTICE OF *EX PARTE* PRESENTATION

Federal-State Board on Universal Service
CC Docket No. 96-45
WC Docket No. 05-337

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Today, Curt Stamp, Executive Director of the Independent Telephone and Telecommunications Alliance (ITTA), and the undersigned met with Commissioner Michael Copps and Scott Deutchman and discussed the above-referenced dockets.

Specifically, ITTA described the rural telephone industry's record in broadband deployment, and discussed the risks inherent in general USF auctions-approach strategies. These include diminished access to investment capital and a loss of predictable recovery of investment. ITTA described instances of member company build-out achievements that were compelled by carrier of last resort (COLR) obligations, and which resulted in network deployment where ordinary business models would not have supported that expansion. ITTA also discussed the need for meaningful reform of the competitive eligible telecommunications carrier (CETC) process. Finally, ITTA discussed the costs and goals of broadband deployment.

Respectfully submitted,

s/ Joshua Seidemann
Joshua Seidemann
Director, Regulatory Policy

cc: Commissioner Michael Copps
Scott Deutchman