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Robert J. Currey
President and CEO

November 9, 2007

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 05-337

Dear Chairman Martin:

I am writing to you today on behalf of Consolidated Communications to urge adoption of the temporary cap on Universal Service Fund (USF) support for competitive eligible telecommunications carriers (CETCs). Consolidated Communications is a family of companies providing telephone and advanced communications services to both residential and business customers in Illinois and Texas. Consolidated is the 14th largest independent local telephone company in the United States.

The proposed interim cap on USF support for CETCs is a sensible step toward stemming irrational growth in the USF that has not delivered commensurate public benefits. USF support for CETCs has often resulted in multiple supported CETCs in markets that would be unable to support economically even a single carrier. Moreover, a study by Criterion Economics revealed that in 814 study areas served by both wireless CETCs and wireless carriers that do not receive USF, the non-supported carriers serve more than 97% of the population, while supported CETCs cover less than 70% of the population. The proposed interim cap on a state-by-state basis would encourage states to direct CETC support to carriers serving the areas most in need.

Consolidated urges the Commission to adopt the cap as a necessary first step to stabilize the USF while long-term solutions are developed. The Commission's interest in this matter will ensure the continued development and deployment of vital communications networks across our Nation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert J. Currey". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Robert J. Currey
President and CEO

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