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February 13, 2008

**EX PARTE**

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, 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:

On February 12, 2008, Tom Tauke of Verizon spoke by telephone with Commissioner Robert McDowell, Angela Giancarlo, Legal Advisor to Commissioner McDowell, and John Hunter, Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner McDowell. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Joint Board's recommendation for an interim cap on support to competitive ETCs.

Verizon expressed its continued support for the Joint Board's recommendation for an interim cap on CETC support. Mr. Tauke reiterated that the interim cap is vital to the long-term stability of the Universal Service Fund, and a necessary step towards meaningful, comprehensive reform. Verizon's positions were consistent with its prior filings in these proceedings.

Please contact me directly if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Grillo".

cc: Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Angela Giancarlo  
John Hunter