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February 29, 2008

**EX PARTE**

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

**Re: Broadband Industry Practices, WC Docket No. 07-52; 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 28, 2008, Thomas J. Tauke, Executive Vice President - Public Affairs, Policy and Communications, Verizon, spoke by telephone with Commissioner Robert McDowell.

Mr. Tauke discussed the February 25th hearing in the above-captioned broadband network management proceeding. Consistent with the testimony at that hearing, Mr. Tauke emphasized general acceptance of the need for network management. He also discussed the problems with government regulation of such practices. Instead, he reiterated two points made in his testimony: 1) that the FCC should interpret its existing principles based on the facts of the situation before it; and 2) that going forward the FCC should encourage the Internet industry to work together to establish standards for appropriate network management.

Mr. Tauke also stressed the importance of swift action on the recommendation of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service for an interim cap on high cost support to competitive ETCs. Mr. Tauke emphasized that the interim cap is vital to the long-term stability of the fund and that the interim cap is a critical prerequisite to permanent, meaningful reform.

Please contact me directly if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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

cc: Commissioner Robert McDowell