

July 16, 2008

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

Ex Parte Notice:

In the Matter of the High-Cost Universal Service Support and Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, WC Docket 05-337, and CC Docket 96-45.

In the Matter of Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime, WC Docket No. 01-92.

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Tuesday, July 15, 2008, Daniel Mitchell, Vice President of the Legal and Industry Division for the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA), met with John W. Hunter, Special Counsel, Wireline to Commissioner Robert McDowell to discuss NTCA's Interim Universal Service Fund (USF) and Intercarrier Compensation (IC) Reform Proposal filed on July 11, 2008 in response to the Federal Communications Commission, May 2, 2008, News Release encouraging parties to refresh the record in the open dockets addressing universal service reform and/or intercarrier compensation reform.¹ The positions taken and discussed by NTCA are the same as those reflected in NTCA Interim USF & IC Reform Proposal filed in the above-referenced dockets.

As a point of clarification in the NTCA interim proposal, for the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA) pool, the cap would reflect the composite pool average switched access rate level. NECA would continue to have the ability to assign pool study areas to rate bands as it does currently.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, a copy of this letter is being filed via ECFS with your office. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (703) 351-2016.

Sincerely,

/s/ Daniel Mitchell
Daniel Mitchell
Vice President
Legal & Industry Division

DM:rhb
cc: John Hunter

¹ See FCC News Release "Interim Cap Clears Path for Comprehensive Reform – Commission Posted to Move Forward on Difficult Decisions Necessary to Promote and Advance Affordable Telecommunications for All Americans," (rel. May 2, 2008) ("FCC News Release").