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October 21, 2008

By Electronic Filing

Chairman Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Ex Parte Notice*; WC Docket No. 01-92, 05-337, 06-112, 99-68, 07-135

Dear Chairman Martin:

The Commission has tentatively placed on its agenda for the November 4th Open Meeting a Report and Order, Order on Remand, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking addressing the comprehensive reform of intercarrier compensation and universal service. Intercarrier compensation and universal service systems affect billions of dollars of revenue and expenses for all telecommunications carriers and interconnected VoIP providers, and changes to these systems should not be made without an open and transparent opportunity for carriers to provide feedback on the specific rule changes being considered. This is all the more important because of the recent turmoil in the financial markets. As such, COMPTEL continues to urge - as it did in its latest round of *ex parte* filings (including the letter to the Commission dated October 14, 2008 to which COMPTEL was a signatory) - that the Commission issue a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking detailing and seeking comment on the specific rules the Commission is considering, with regard to the aspects of the intercarrier compensation reform not required by the Court of Appeal mandamus order surrounding compensation for ISP-bound calls.¹

The Administrative Procedure Act requires effective notice and comment. Although the Commission has gone through the rote steps of notice and comment, the opportunity for comment will not be effective unless parties can evaluate and provide feedback on the full proposal now being considered by the Commission. Changes to the system of intercarrier compensation and universal service are highly interrelated, so it is

¹ See *In re: Core Communs., Inc.*, 531 F.3d 849 (Jul. 8, 2008).

not possible to assess the proposed changes without being privy to the whole proposal. Without more information, it is virtually impossible for a party to determine how it will be affected by the package of changes under consideration. Once they understand the proposal, parties need the opportunity to intelligently respond to the plethora of impacts such changes would have on the telecommunications industry.

Sincerely,

/s/ Matthew Salmon

Matthew Salmon
President

cc: Commissioner Adelstein
Commissioner Copps
Commissioner McDowell
Commissioner Tate