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October 29, 2008

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., Room TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service
WC Docket No. 05-337

Madam Secretary:

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, we hereby provide you with notice of an oral ex parte presentation in connection with the above-captioned proceeding. On Tuesday, October 28, 2008, Ted Carlson, Joe Hanley, Grant Spellmeyer and undersigned counsel, on behalf of United States Cellular Corporation ("U.S. Cellular"), met with Commissioner Tate and Wayne Leighton.

We discussed universal service reform, with U.S. Cellular reiterating comments that it has previously placed into the record. We also discussed how the proposed distribution methodology for competitive ETCs is fatally flawed. As we understand the proposal, the FCC still needs to develop a benchmark for wireless costs, from which support for wireless carriers would be based. Apparently, the FCC's proposal would provide support for wireless carriers based on the *wireline* benchmark, which is not a methodology we have seen endorsed by experts in the field. Moreover, other experts who have weighed in on this subject with the Commission have found it to be flawed and not competitively neutral. We also discussed how the current proposal appears to be attempting to identify "high-cost carriers" as worthy of support, when the FCC should be identifying "high-cost areas" and providing support based on a methodology that encourages efficient carriers to enter.

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U.S. Cellular also proposed interim reform that would provide rural consumers with wireless broadband service at existing support levels. In addition, U.S. Cellular provided relevant information on its construction plans for 2008 and 2009, including the potential impact of universal service reform on rural consumers.

Copies of our presentation slides, and other materials left behind at the meeting are enclosed.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact undersigned counsel directly.

Sincerely,



David A. LaFuria

Enclosures

cc: Hon. Deborah Taylor Tate
Wayne Leighton, Esq.
Mr. Ted Carlson
Mr. Joe Hanley
Grant Spellmeyer, Esq.