



**OPASTCO**

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November 25, 2008

Marlene H. Dortch  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, Room TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

**In the Matter of:      Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company's  
Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45.**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies (OPASTCO) supports Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative's nomination of Jason B. Williams to serve on the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors as the representative for incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs) with annual reporting revenues of \$40 million or less. Mr. Williams currently holds this position on the USAC Board.

Mr. Williams presently works for the law firm of Christian, Samson, Jones and Chisholm, PLLC, where he focuses on rural telecommunications issues and serves as outside counsel for a number of rural ILECs and telecommunications trade associations. During the last few years, he has worked on a variety of legal and regulatory issues for these entities. Prior to working in private practice, Mr. Williams served as Special Assistant to then-FCC Commissioner Kevin Martin where he advised the Commissioner on a variety of wireline, wireless and media issues.

Prior to his service at the FCC, Mr. Williams worked as manager of regulatory affairs for XO Communications (formerly Nextlink Communications) where he helped formulate much of the company's regulatory policy during its first three years of operations. Mr. Williams also worked briefly as a business development manager at NeuStar, Inc.

Mr. Williams graduated with honors from the University of Montana School of Law and completed his undergraduate work at the University of Notre Dame. Based on his experience, knowledge of rural telecommunications issues, and performance to date on the USAC Board, OPASTCO believes that he is the best possible candidate to represent small ILECs.

In accordance with FCC rules, this letter is being filed electronically in the above-captioned docket.

Sincerely,

Stuart Polikoff  
Director of Government Relations  
OPASTCO

cc: Antoinette Stevens, TAPD, WCB