

LAW OFFICES
BLOOSTON, MORDKOFKY, DICKENS, DUFFY & PRENDERGAST, LLP
2120 L STREET, NW, SUITE 300
WASHINGTON, DC 20037

HAROLD MORDKOFKY
BENJAMIN H. DICKENS, JR.
JOHN A. PRENDERGAST
GERARD J. DUFFY
RICHARD D. RUBINO
MARY J. SISAK
D. CARY MITCHELL
SALVATORE TAILLEFER, JR.

ARTHUR BLOOSTON
1914 – 1999

(202) 659-0830
FACSIMILE: (202) 828-5568

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AFFILIATED SOUTH AMERICAN OFFICES

ESTUDIO JAUREGUI & ASSOCIATES
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

ROBERT M. JACKSON
OF COUNSEL

PERRY W. WOOFER
LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANT

EUGENE MALISZEWSKYJ
DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING

WRITER'S CONTACT INFORMATION

(202) 828-5528
gjd@bloostonlaw.com

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Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: GN Docket Nos. 09-51 and 09-137

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On September 14, 2009, Derrick Owens, Eric Keber, Don Jackson and Gerry Duffy representing the Western Telecommunications Alliance ("WTA") met with Jennifer Schneider, Senior Policy Advisor to Commissioner Michael J. Copps, to discuss various broadband matters.

The topics included: (a) the experiences of WTA's rural telephone company members in deploying digital subscriber line ("DSL") and hybrid fiber-DSL facilities to provide broadband services to increasing portions of their rural customers; (b) the capacity, scalability, reliability and security advantages of fiber optic facilities in bringing existing and future broadband services to rural areas; (c) the need for sufficient and continuing high-cost Universal Service Fund support to enable rural telephone companies to upgrade, operate and maintain their networks as broadband services evolve; (d) the need for complementary wireline and wireless broadband networks in rural America; and (e) the capability of rural telephone companies to deploy broadband incrementally in neighboring unserved and underserved rural areas if certain regulatory constraints (e.g., lengthy study area waiver processing periods, the Section 54.305 "parent trap" rule and the identical support rule) are eliminated. Mr. Jackson reported upon his rural Wyoming company's deployment of fiber optic rings and broadband loop facilities, the enthusiastic response of his customers to these broadband upgrades, and the economic development, medical treatment and educational advantages that are arising from existing and emerging broadband services.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's Rules, this submission is being filed for inclusion in the public record of the referenced proceedings.

cc: Jennifer Schneider

Respectfully submitted,

Gerard J. Duffy

