

Alan Buzacott  
Executive Director  
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October 8, 2009

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**Ex Parte**

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Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45; Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime, CC Docket No. 01-92; Universal Service Contribution Methodology, WC Docket No. 06-122; High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337; A National Broadband Plan for our Future, GN Docket No. 09-51**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On October 8, 2009, Kathleen Grillo, Maggie McCready, Chris Miller and Alan Buzacott of Verizon and Tamara Preiss of Verizon Wireless met with Carol Matthey, Tom Koutsky, and Rebekah Goodheart of the Commission's Omnibus Broadband Initiative team to discuss the Commission's National Broadband Plan proceeding.

Verizon explained that one way to encourage broadband deployment in rural areas is through targeted universal service support for middle mile transport expenses. Verizon also suggested that the Commission could encourage investment in middle mile transport facilities and connections to cell sites in rural areas by providing one-time infrastructure grants. Consistent with prior filings, Verizon suggested that infrastructure programs targeted at specific deployment needs in rural areas would advance both the Commission's broadband and universal service goals and could fit within a reasonably sized universal service fund.

In addition, Verizon discussed previously-filed proposals for a competitive bidding system for wireless CETCs, transitioning all intercarrier compensation charges to a low uniform rate, and basing universal service fund contributions on telephone numbers. Finally, Verizon addressed the issues raised by the Tenth Circuit in the *Qwest II* decision and how the Commission could respond to the current remand using rate data submitted by Verizon in Exhibit 2 of its May 8, 2009 comments in CC Docket No. 96-45. The discussion was consistent with Verizon's previous filings in this matter.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Buzacott".

cc: Carol Matthey

Tom Koutsky

Rebekah Goodheart