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November 4, 2009

**VIA ECFS**

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

**Re: *Notice of Ex Parte Communication,***  
**WC Docket No. 05-337, CC Docket No. 96-45, WC Docket No. 05-25,**  
**GN Docket No. 09-47, GN Docket No. 09-51, GN Docket No. 09-137**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Yesterday, Holly Henderson of SouthernLINC Wireless, Peter Gose of Mobi PCS, Isaac Himowitz of Kelley Drye & Warren, and I met with Priya Aiyar, Legal Advisor for Wireline Competition to Chairman Genachowski, on behalf of the Universal Service for America Coalition.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Himowitz and I were able to attend the meeting in person, while Ms. Henderson and Mr. Gose joined us via telephone. During the meeting, we discussed various issues relating to universal service, including:

- the misidentification of the Identical Support rule as the cause of the alleged problems with the universal service program;
- the relationship between universal service reform and special access reform, including the detrimental impact that subsidizing only one or two service providers in rural markets could have on the availability of “second-mile” and “middle-mile” connectivity at reasonable rates, terms and conditions in those areas;

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<sup>1</sup> The USA Coalition consists of four of the nation’s leading rural providers of wireless services, and is dedicated to advancing regulatory policies that will enable Americans to enjoy the full promise and potential of wireless communications, regardless of where they live and work. The members of the USA Coalition include Carolina West Wireless, Mobi PCS, SouthernLINC Wireless, and Thumb Cellular LLC.

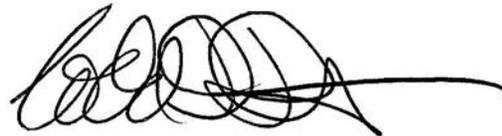
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- the importance of granting the Corr Petition;<sup>2</sup>
- the importance of granting the Mobi/Cricket Petition and of providing greater clarity on how carriers should report customers to USAC that use P.O. Boxes as mailing addresses;<sup>3</sup>
- the need to develop clear guidelines for the enforcement of 47 C.F.R. § 54.405 which mandates Lifeline service providers advertise their supported services;<sup>4</sup>
- the need to respond to Advantage Cellular's cost-filing in a manner and in a time-frame consistent with how the Commission treats all other USF cost-filings;<sup>5</sup>
- the appropriate perspective for considering long-term universal service reform, and the importance of ensuring that any reform is technologically and competitively neutral; and
- the potential harms of establishing arbitrary requirements for USF support with respect to speed or type of service – such requirements would only inhibit the deployment of broadband and voice services in rural areas.

During our discussion, we also provided copies of the attached letter to Chairman Genachowski.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules, a copy of this letter is being filed via ECFS with your office. Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions or need additional information.

Respectfully submitted,



Todd D. Daubert  
*Counsel for the USA Coalition*

cc: Priya Aiyar

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<sup>2</sup> *Request for Review By Corr Wireless Communications, LLC of Decision of Universal Svc. Administrator*, CC Docket No. 96-45, WC Docket No. 05-337, Appeal from Decision of Administrator of High Cost Universal Service Fund (filed Mar. 11, 2009).

<sup>3</sup> *Mobi PCS, Inc. and Cricket Communications, Inc. Petition Requesting the FCC to Provide Guidance to USAC*, CC Docket No. 96-45 (filed May 29, 2009).

<sup>4</sup> *Comment Sought on Request for USF Policy Guidance Requested by the USAC*, WC Docket Nos. 05-337, 06-122, CC Docket No. 96-45, DA 09-2117 (rel. Sep. 28, 2009).

<sup>5</sup> *Comment Sought on Advantage Cellular Systems, Inc., Request for Cost-Based High-Cost Universal Service Support*, WC Docket No. 05-337, CC Docket No. 96-45, DA 09-1563 (rel. Jul. 21, 2009).