

Melissa E. Newman
Vice President – Federal Relations
Qwest
607 14th Street NW
Suite 950
Washington, DC 20005
202.429.3120



Filed via ECFS

EX PARTE

December 10, 2009

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

RE: *In the Matters of High-Cost Universal Service Support*, WC Docket No. 05-337;
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On December 10, 2009, Andrew Crain, Craig Brown and Melissa Newman of Qwest met, in three separate meetings, with Christi Shewman, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Attwell Baker; with Christine Kurth, Legal Advisor to Commissioner McDowell; and with Priya Aiyar, Legal Advisor to Chairman Genachowski, Sharon Gillett, Chief-Wireline Competition Bureau and Austin Schlick, General Counsel, to discuss the above-captioned proceedings.

In a separate meeting via telephone, Steve Davis met with Commissioner Michael Copps to discuss the above-captioned proceedings.

The purpose of the meetings was to discuss the high-cost universal service fund. The FCC has had two remands from the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in this area. Qwest urges the Commission to adopt a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that proposes meaningful rules that comply with the court remand. Any steps taken in this proceeding can be modified at a later date and time, if and when the FCC undertakes comprehensive universal service reform. However, the prospect of such reform does not relieve the FCC's obligation to address the 10th Circuit remand.

This *ex parte* is being filed electronically pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.49(f) and 1.1206(b).

Sincerely,

/s/ Melissa E. Newman

Copy via email to:
Commissioner Michael Copps
Priya Aiyar
Sharon Gillett
Christine Kurth
Austin Schlick
Christi Shewman