



CenturyLink™

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EX PARTE NOTICE

December 15, 2009

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

*Re: 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 behalf of CenturyLink, David Bartlett, and I met with Sharon Gillett, Don Stockdale, and Alex Minard from the Wireline Competition Bureau on December 14, 2009. We discussed CenturyLink's advocacy regarding universal service reform the past year including the reform proposals filed last year in the above-captioned dockets by Embarq and the universal service reform legislation introduced in the last session by Representatives Boucher and Terry. The discussion was consistent with the filings made by CenturyLink and its predecessor companies, CenturyTel and Embarq, in the above-captioned dockets.

In particular, we urged the Commission not to miss the opportunity to reform Non-Rural High-Cost support in the short term even as it considers broader reform in the context of the National Broadband Plan. We explained that the current rulemaking proceeding in response to the remand from the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit offers an opportunity to move in the right direction toward more targeted support that is used for broadband deployment, and that the Commission should seize this opportunity rather than wait for the adoption of a future broadband-related support mechanism as it could take several years for such a new mechanism to be developed. We also used the attached presentation to illustrate several points in support of our argument.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules, one copy of this electronic notice is being filed in each of the above-referenced dockets. Please contact me if you have any questions or need anything else.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey S Lanning

cc: Sharon Gillett
Don Stockdale
Alex Minard