



CenturyLink™

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January 19, 2010

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

EX PARTE NOTICE

Re: A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, GN Docket No. 09-51; High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337; Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45; Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime, CC Docket No. 01-92; Preserving the Open Internet, WC Docket No. 09-191; Broadband Industry Practices, WC Docket No. 07-52.

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of CenturyLink, Glen Post, Tom Gerke, David Bartlett, Jeff Glover and I met with Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker and her legal advisor, Christi Shewman, on January 15, 2010. We briefly provided an update on CenturyLink's progress after closing the merger of CenturyTel and Embarq, and discussed challenges CenturyLink faces as a broadband and telecommunications service provider focused on serving rural areas with low population densities, which are often overlooked by all other providers. The discussion was consistent with CenturyLink's filings in the above-captioned dockets, and it was facilitated by the attached exhibits.

Specifically, CenturyLink urged the Commission to adopt the Broadband Now proposal filed in most of the above-captioned dockets by CenturyLink, Consolidated Communications, Frontier Communications, Iowa Telecommunications, and Windstream on December 7, 2009. We explained that the Broadband Now proposal includes modest changes to the current Non-Rural High-Cost Universal Service Fund support mechanism that could be implemented promptly to target support to many of the highest-cost exchanges in the country and direct that support toward broadband deployment in unserved areas while the Commission works to implement broader changes through the National Broadband Plan. We estimated that CenturyLink would be able to offer broadband service with 6 Mbps downstream throughput to 95% of our broadband-eligible lines within five years should the Commission adopt the plan.

CenturyLink also urged the Commission to adopt the intercarrier compensation reform provisions of the Broadband Now proposal, which we noted are consistent with the statement issued by Commissioner McDowell, Commissioner Copps, and then Commissioners Adelstein and Tate in December 2008. We explained that rural consumers will suffer in the absence of intercarrier compensation reform, particularly in the face of self-help efforts by other carriers that only exacerbate the problems.

CenturyLink also discussed Internet regulation briefly. We emphasized the need for reasonable network management, an opportunity to make a return on network investments, and parity in treatment for all Internet access and content providers, particularly in rural areas where capacity limitations are inherent for any provider.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey S Lanning". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeffrey" and last name "Lanning" clearly distinguishable.

Jeffrey S Lanning

cc: Commissioner Baker
Christi Shewman