

# LUKAS, NACE, GUTIERREZ & SACHS, LLP

8300 GREENSBORO DRIVE, SUITE 1200  
MCLEAN, VIRGINIA 22102  
703 584 8678 • 703 584 8696 FAX

WWW.FCCLAW.COM

RUSSELL D. LUKAS  
DAVID L. NACE  
THOMAS GUTIERREZ\*  
ELIZABETH R. SACHS\*  
DAVID A. LAFURIA  
PAMELA L. GIST  
TODD SLAMOWITZ\*  
TODD B. LANTOR\*  
STEVEN M. CHERNOFF\*  
KATHERINE PATSAS NEVITT\*

CONSULTING ENGINEERS  
ALI KUZEHKANANI  
LEILA REZANAVAZ  
—  
OF COUNSEL  
GEORGE L. LYON, JR.  
LEONARD S. KOLSKY\*  
JOHN CIMKO\*  
J. K. HAGE III\*  
JOHN J. McAVOY\*  
HON. GERALD S. MCGOWAN\*  
TAMARA DAVIS BROWN\*  
—  
\*NOT ADMITTED IN VA

January 28, 2010

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W., Room TW-B204  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: A National Broadband Plan  
GN Docket No. 09-51  
WC Docket NO. 05-337

Madam Secretary:

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, we hereby provide you with notice of an oral ex parte presentation in connection with the above-captioned proceeding. On Wednesday, January 27, 2010, Grant Spellmeyer and undersigned counsel, on behalf of United States Cellular Corporation ("U.S. Cellular"), met with Blair Levin, Elvis Stumbers, and Carol Matthey to discuss universal service reform and the National Broadband Plan.

We discussed reform options including more accurately targeting support, developing more efficient distribution mechanisms, ensuring competitive neutrality, and portability. We also discussed how U.S. Cellular is using high-cost support to deliver incremental investments in every state where it has been designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier, and that support to wireless carriers is delivering enormous benefits to rural consumers. A copy of our presentation slides is enclosed.

We also discussed the difficulties created when government chooses marketplace winners by conferring high-cost support on a single carrier. We submitted a paper from William P. Rogerson, Professor of Economics at Northwestern University and former Chief Economist at the FCC. Professor Rogerson's paper, titled "Problems With Using Reverse Auctions to Determine Universal Service Subsidies," discusses the regulatory challenges of reverse auctions, and recommends the consideration of proxy cost models and more accurate targeting of support

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as superior options. Available literature strongly suggests that reverse auctions have not been used successfully for high-cost universal service subsidies in other countries.

Creating a dominant carrier in the marketplace will require significant and likely ineffective regulation to protect consumers from monopoly business practices, and will recreate the very problem that the 1996 Act set out to resolve when it made support available to competitors, namely a rural population served by a dominant carrier and denied the benefits of competition.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact undersigned counsel directly.

Sincerely,



David A. LaFuria

Enclosures

cc: Grant Spellmeyer, Esq.  
Blair Levin, Esq.  
Carol Matthey, Esq.  
Elvis Stumbergs, Esq.