

LAW OFFICES
BLOOSTON, MORDKOFKY, DICKENS, DUFFY & PRENDERGAST, LLP
2120 L STREET, NW, SUITE 300
WASHINGTON, DC 20037

HAROLD MORDKOFKY
BENJAMIN H. DICKENS, JR.
JOHN A. PRENDERGAST
GERARD J. DUFFY
RICHARD D. RUBINO
MARY J. SISAK
D. CARY MITCHELL
SALVATORE TAILLEFER, JR.

ARTHUR BLOOSTON
1914 – 1999

(202) 659-0830
FACSIMILE: (202) 828-5568

February 2, 2010

AFFILIATED SOUTH AMERICAN OFFICES

ESTUDIO JAUREGUI & ASSOCIATES
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

ROBERT M. JACKSON
OF COUNSEL

PERRY W. WOOFER
LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANT

EUGENE MALISZEWSKYJ
DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING

WRITER'S CONTACT INFORMATION

(202) 828-5528
gjd@bloostonlaw.com

Filed Via ECFS

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

RE: GN Docket Nos. 09-47, 09-51 and 09-137

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On February 2, 2010, Robert DeBroux, Derrick Owens, Eric Keber and Gerard Duffy representing the Western Telecommunications Alliance ("WTA") met with Jennifer Schneider, Senior Policy Advisor and Legal Advisor for Broadband, Wireline and Universal Service Issues, to Commissioner Michael J. Copps, to discuss various broadband matters.

The topics included: (a) the success of WTA members and other rural local exchange carriers ("RLECs") in extending the current version of "broadband" service to approximately 90 percent of their rural customers; (b) the substantial additional future investments necessary for RLECs to extend "broadband" to some or all of their remaining rural customers as well as to increase "broadband" speeds and capacities to the higher and higher levels that will be needed during coming years; (c) the critical importance of Universal Service Fund ("USF") support and Intercarrier Compensation revenues to both the past and future ability of RLECs to extend, upgrade and operate their broadband-capable networks; (d) the manner in which Carrier of Last Resort ("COLR") obligations and associated reporting obligations impose substantial additional costs upon RLECs; (e) the presence of unaffiliated cable television broadband and/or voice services in only a very small portion of the towns and villages (and in none of the unincorporated outlying rural areas) in the study areas of WTA members; (f) the possibility that the overall size of the USF would increase if high-cost support was limited to outlying rural areas; (g) the complexities of estimating risk and of calculating a revised "rate of return" for RLECs; (h) the complementary nature of wireline and wireless "broadband" services; (i) the stability of USF support for RLECs during the past five years and the actual factors predominately responsible for recent increases in the USF contribution factor; and (j) the potential use of connections or number-based mechanisms to address USF contribution factor problems.

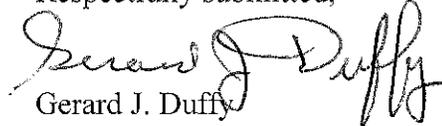
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary

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Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's Rules, this submission is being filed for inclusion in the public record of the referenced proceedings.

Respectfully submitted,


Gerard J. Duffy

cc: Jennifer Schneider