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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

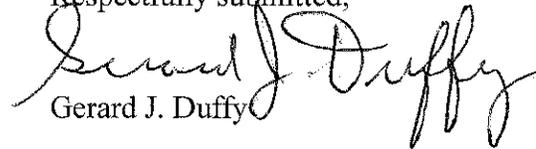
Dear Ms. Dortch:

On February 23, 2010, Paul Kelly of Cordova Telephone Cooperative, Inc.; Steve Merriam of Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative; Doug Neal of OTZ Telephone Cooperative, Inc.; and Derrick Owens and Gerard Duffy representing the Western Telecommunications Alliance met with Christi Shewman, Legal Advisor for Wireline and Universal Service to Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker, to discuss various broadband and universal service matters affecting Alaskan rural telephone companies and their customers.

The topics included: (a) the unique nature of Alaskan telecommunications issues and challenges; (b) the success of Alaskan rural telephone companies in deploying "last mile" broadband infrastructure in their large and remote service areas (some of which are larger than states such as Minnesota); (c) the critical importance of high cost support and access charge revenues (which may comprise as much as 85 percent of the revenue streams of some carriers) in enabling Alaskan rural telephone companies to invest in, operate and maintain their telecommunications networks; (d) the essential role and very high cost of "middle mile" and other special access service in Alaska; (e) the difficulty and very high cost of making service calls by air or water to the many rural Alaskan areas that cannot be reached by road during much or all of the year; (f) the general high cost of operating and maintaining Alaskan rural telecommunications networks; and (g) the indispensable role played by Alaskan wireline networks in furnishing the infrastructure necessary to support wireless, Internet access and video services.

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February 24, 2010
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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: Christi Shewman