



March 9, 2010

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

***Ex Parte Notice***

***In the Matter of A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, GN Docket Nos. 09-47, 09-51, and 09-137***

***In the Matter of Jurisdictional Separations and Referral to the Federal-State Joint Board, CC Docket No. 80-286***

***In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45***

***In the Matter of Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime, CC Docket No. 01-92; and IP-Enabled Services, WC Docket No. 04-36***

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Monday, March 8, 2010, Daniel Mitchell, Vice President-Legal & Industry with the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA), met with Sharon Gillett, Chief of the Wireline Competition Bureau, during meetings held in Charleston, South Carolina as part of NTCA's Telecom Executive Forum conference.<sup>1</sup> Also present was NTCA member Wendy T. Fast, President of Consolidated Telephone Company, Nebraska.

The participants discussed portions of the National Broadband Plan (NBP) concerning rural health care and middle mile cost recovery. Also discussed were the separations freeze, general reform of the Universal Service Fund, and intercarrier compensation reform following the release of the NBP.

<sup>1</sup> NTCA is a premier industry association representing rural telecommunications providers. Established in 1954 by eight rural telephone companies, today NTCA represents 585 rural rate-of-return regulated telecommunications providers. All of NTCA's members are full service rural local exchange carriers (LECs) and many of its members provide wireless, cable, Internet, satellite and long distance services to their communities. Each member is a "rural telephone company" as defined in the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (Act). NTCA's members are dedicated to providing competitive modern telecommunications services and ensuring the economic future of their rural communities.

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The discussions were consistent with NTCA's positions in previously filed comments and pleadings in the above-referenced dockets.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, a copy of this letter is being filed via ECFS with your office. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (703) 351-2016.

Sincerely,

/s/ Daniel Mitchell

Daniel Mitchell

Vice President, Legal and Industry

DM: kjr

cc: Sharon Gillett