



March 26, 2010

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

RE: Notice of Ex Parte - Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45
In the matter of a National Broadband Plan for Our Future, GN Docket No. 09-51
Review of the Commission's Program Access rules and Examination of Programming Tying Arrangements, MB Docket No. 07-198
In the Matter of Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition in the Market for the Delivery of Video Programming, MB Docket No. 07-269

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On March 25, 2010 Eric Cramer of Wilkes Telecommunications, John Cole of CoBank, Patricia Stewart of Ironton Telephone Company, Holly Hudspeth of Yadkin Valley Telephone, R. Craig Smith of MGW Telephone, Carole M. Woodward of Eastern Rural Telecom Association, and Jerry L. Weikle of Weikle & Co. met with Christi Shewman and Bradley Gillen of Commissioner Meredith Atwell Baker's office.

ERTA discussed how its members take the commitment to providing Universal Service seriously and that rural companies operate in high cost areas not served by large companies. There was discussion about the importance to combine reform of intercarrier compensation and Universal Service and to allow for a smooth transition. There was discussion about the customer impact of rate increases if rural high cost companies were forced to convert to price cap regulation. There was discussion about the need for policy decisions to create incentives for private investment.

There was also discussion about the discriminatory practices experienced by small rural companies offering video. This discrimination is present in retransmission consent issues and in program access issues. Instead of receiving volume discounts for program access, small rural companies receive volume penalties. There was also discussion about the unnecessary financial burdens imposed on customers because of the ESPN360 business model.

This letter is being filed in the above referenced dockets in accordance with Commission rules.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jerry L. Weikle

Jerry L. Weikle

cc: Christi Shewman
Bradley Gillen