

Minority Media and Telecommunications Council

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April 16, 2010

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

RE: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, High Cost Universal Service Support
(CC Docket No. 96-45 and WC Docket No. 05-337)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This reports on a telephone call I had today with Christine Kurth, Esq., Legal Advisor to Commissioner Robert McDowell. I made these points:

- Insular support remains critical to Puerto Rico, as many in Puerto Rico still lack access to basic telephone and Internet services that the rest of the U.S. takes for granted.
- Puerto Rico has the largest wireline-unserved population in the United States – about 200,000. Many of them also lack wireless service due to weak coverage in the inland mountains.
- This is at bottom a civil rights issue. A decision to deny relief to Puerto Rico would be regarded by the public as the agency's first signal – post-National Broadband Plan – as to whether it really intends to ensure that all Americans should enjoy the basic infrastructure provided by wireline and depended upon everywhere else in the nation for public safety and as infrastructure for broadband competition.

Respectfully submitted,

David Honig

David Honig
President and Executive Director