



Dustin Johnson, Chair
Steve Kolbeck, Vice Chair
Gary Hanson, Commissioner

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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October 20, 2010

Ex Parte Notice

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Room TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90; A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, GN Docket No. 09-51; and High Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On October 19, 2010, Governor M. Michael Rounds, Dustin Johnson, Chairman of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission ("SDPUC"), Steve Kolbeck, Vice-Chair of the SDPUC, Gary Hanson, Commissioner of the SDPUC, and Rolayne Ailts Wiest, SDPUC Commission Counsel met separately with Chairman Julius Genachowski, Edward P. Lazarus, Chief of Staff for Chairman Genachowski, Phoebe Yang, Senior Advisor on Broadband for Chairman Genachowski, and Sharon Gillett, Wireline Competition Bureau Chief; Commissioner Michael J. Copps, John Giusti, Chief of Staff for Commissioner Copps, and Margaret McCarthy, Policy Advisor for Commissioner Copps.

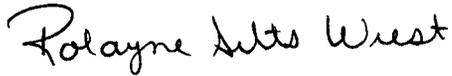
Also on October 19, 2010, Governor M. Michael Rounds, Vice-Chair Steve Kolbeck, and Commissioner Gary Hanson met separately with Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker and Bradley Gillen, Legal Advisor for Commissioner Baker; Commissioner Mignon Clyburn and Angela Kronenberg, Acting Wireline Legal Advisor for Commissioner Clyburn.

The purpose of the meetings was to discuss concerns regarding the impact on South Dakota of the proposals of the National Broadband Plan ("NBP") and FCC proceedings to implement the NBP. Governor Rounds and the SDPUC Commissioners emphasized the rural nature of South Dakota and the challenges and successes of our rural carriers in providing telecommunications and broadband access to their rural customers. They stated that the 4 Mbps standard will not be sufficient to meet the needs of the residents of South Dakota. They emphasized how crucial broadband access is for economic development, especially in

rural states such as South Dakota. The Governor and SDPUC Commissioners expressed their concerns that proposed changes to the universal service fund could significantly undermine the ability of South Dakota's rural carriers to continue their build out of broadband access as well as their ability to maintain their current network infrastructure. They suggested that improvements could be made to the current funding mechanisms but that wholesale revision as it applies to rural carriers is not warranted. They further stressed their willingness and desire to work with the FCC to ensure that customers have access to broadband services. A copy of the presentation that was discussed at the meetings is attached.

Pursuant to section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, a copy of this letter and the presentation is being filed via ECFS with your office. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment

cc: Commissioner Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Edward P. Lazarus
Phoebe Yang
Sharon Gillett
John Giusti
Margaret McCarthy
Bradley Gillen
Angela Kronenberg