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EX PARTE

Electronic Filing via ECFS

December 16, 2010

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service,*  
CC Docket No. 96-45  
*In the Matter of Lifeline and Link Up,* WC Docket No. 03-109

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On December 15, 2010, Melissa Newman, in person, and Donna Beson, Shelly Eggert and Tiffany Smink, by phone, and all of Qwest, met with Kimberly Scardino of the Wireline Competition Bureau. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service's Recommended Decision<sup>1</sup> regarding modifications to the Federal Communications Commission's (Commission) eligibility, verifications, and outreach rules for the Lifeline and Link Up universal service programs.

The meeting participants discussed Qwest's views that states and state agencies that determine eligibility for Lifeline-qualifying programs are in a better position than carriers to determine consumer eligibility for Lifeline, conduct eligibility verification, and conduct outreach for the Lifeline program. Qwest continues to view that the most effective outreach to eligible consumers is that done by state agencies at the time a consumer is enrolling in a Lifeline-qualifying program. Additionally Qwest participants expressed that minimum uniform eligibility and verification requirements with states permitted to adopt additional requirements could be beneficial, automatic enrollment of eligible consumers with existing telephone service should remain an encouraged best practice, the Commission should clarify the one-per-household rule including to address how it applies to nursing homes, roommates, assisted living facilities and other group living environments, and the Commission should continue to examine and develop a program to provide support for broadband services for low-income consumers. Qwest

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<sup>1</sup> *In the Matters of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Lifeline and Link Up*, CC Docket No. 96-45 and WC Docket No. 03-109, Recommended Decision, FCC 10J-3, 2010 FCC Lexis 6557 (Nov. 4, 2010).

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participants also agreed that the Commission should continue to evaluate implementation of a national database of Lifeline program participants, but there remain many complex issues to be addressed before any adoption of such a database.

The participants also discussed issues regarding enhanced Lifeline for residents of tribal lands. Qwest stated that the Commission's clarifying (1) how that program works in conjunction with state and federal Lifeline program requirements, and (2) whether tribal customers are eligible for enhanced Lifeline based solely on income, should aid carriers to implement the program more effectively.

This *ex parte* is being filed electronically pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.49(f) and 1.1206(b). Please contact me at 202.429.3120 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Melissa E. Newman

Copy via email to:

Kimberly Scardino (kimberly.scardino@fcc.gov)