



NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

The Voice of Rural Telecommunications

www.ntca.org

May 19, 2011

Ex Parte Notice

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

Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90; A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, GN Docket No. 09-51; Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for Local Exchange Carriers, WC Docket No. 07-135; High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337; Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime, CC Docket 01-92; Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45; Lifeline and Link-Up, WC Docket No. 03-109

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Wednesday, May 18, 2011, Randy Sandman, Bill Sandman, and Loren Duerksen from Diller Telephone, Mick Jensen and Todd Foje from Great Plains Communications, Catherine Moyer from Pioneer Communications, Shirley Bloomfield from the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association, John Rose from the Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies, Genny Morelli from the Independent Telephone & Telecommunications Alliance, Eric Carstenson and Kim Remington from the Nebraska Telecommunications Association, and Dave Duncan from the Iowa Telecommunications Association (collectively, the “Industry Representatives”), met with Chairman Julius Genachowski and Michael Steffen from the Office of General Counsel during a tour of Diller Telephone’s operations in and around Diller, Nebraska. Congressmen Adrian Smith and Lee Terry, Chairman Tim Schram and Vice Chairman Rod Johnson from the Nebraska Public Service Commission, and Brad Schweer from Rep. Terry’s staff also participated in the tour.

During the tour, the Industry Representatives discussed the challenges and opportunities associated with deploying and operating broadband-capable, multi-use networks in rural America. They also emphasized the importance to communities like Diller of ensuring that such network investments can be sustained, advanced, and upgraded in the face of potential federal reforms to the Universal Service Fund and intercarrier compensation framework.

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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 or mromano@ntca.org.

Sincerely,

/s/ Michael R. Romano

Michael R. Romano

Senior Vice President - Policy

cc: Chairman Genachowski
Michael Steffen