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VIA ELECTRONIC FILING (ECFS) AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

May 25, 2011

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

Re: **In the Matter of: Connect America Fund; A National Broadband Plan; Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for LECs; High Cost Universal Service Support; Developing a Unified IC Regime; Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Tribal Lands Broadband;** WC Docket No. 10-90, GN Docket No 09-51, WC Docket No. 07-135, WC Docket No. 05-337, CC Docket No. 01-92, CC Docket No. 96-45, WT Docket No. 11-40

Notice of Ex Parte Presentation

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to the Commission's *ex parte* rules (47 C.F.R. §1.1206), notice is hereby given that on Wednesday, May 18, 2011, a meeting was held at the FCC offices, with Mr. Geoffrey Blackwell, Chief of the Office of Native Affairs and Policy, and Ms. Irene Flannery, Deputy Chief, Office of Native Affairs and Policy. The persons meeting with these individuals were: Laurence Walchuk, Plant Manager, Hot Springs Telephone Company (and Construction Manager, Montana West); and (by telephone), Jay Wilson Preston, Chairman, Ronan Telephone Company, (and Manager, Montana West).

At the meeting the following subjects were discussed: The meeting discussed the problems being encountered by the Montana West Broadband Stimulus Grant project in Montana, including rights-of-way problems on the Blackfeet Reservation; and construction delays and difficulties associated with the NEPA Environmental Assessment process. Also discussed were the project plans for wireless deployment and the possibility that rule changes being considered by the FCC could provide Tribes, such as the Blackfeet and the Flathead, with more influence as

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to how and when advanced wireless data services might be implemented in the sparsely populated rural areas of Indian country in northwest Montana. Also, the status of the CommunityTel¹-Blackfeet partnership on the Blackfeet Reservation, Oki Communications, LLP, which provides 700 MHz wireless broadband services on the Blackfeet Reservation. Mr. Blackwell suggested that the Commission needs comments from Indian Country to appropriately consider pending rule changes and inquiry processes.

Prior to Jay Wilson Preston being on the telephone, Laurence Walchuk discussed the FCC Broadband Plan and proposed IC/USF reforms, as to how seriously it would effect small carriers who depend on USF funds to provide quality service at reasonable rates. Mr. Walchuk also discussed how the Joint Rural Associations Plan would be a much better option for rural wireline companies. Mr. Walchuk also discussed some of the problems currently being experienced by Hot Springs Telephone Company, regarding uncompleted calls and VoIP traffic.

Sincerely,

/s/

Ivan C. Evilsizer

Attorney for Ronan Telephone Company, Hot Springs Telephone Company and Montana West

cc (by email): Geoffrey Blackwell
Irene Flannery

¹ CommunityTel, Inc. is the Montana parent company of Ronan Telephone Company.