

Memorandum

Date: September 15, 2011

To: Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission

From: Strategic Analysis and Negotiations Division
International Bureau
Federal Communications Commission

Re: *Ex Parte* Meeting in GN Docket No. 11-121

This memorandum is being filed in accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules. On September 8, 2011, at the invitation of Commission staff, Scott Wallsten met with said staff at the Commission's Washington, D.C. headquarters to discuss GN Docket No. 11-121, and in particular discuss ideas for conducting research in preparation for the next International Broadband Data Report. Mr. Wallsten is Vice President for Research and Senior Fellow at the Technology Policy Institute. Commission staff present at the meeting were: Marius Schwartz, Chief Economist, Paroma Sanyal, Economist, Office of Strategic Planning & Policy Analysis, Steve Rosenberg, Chief Data Officer, Wireline Competition Bureau, Katie King, Special Counsel, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, Troy Tanner, Deputy Chief, International Bureau, Rich Lerner, Deputy Division Chief, Strategic Analysis and Negotiations Division (SAND), International Bureau, Francis Gutierrez, Assistant Bureau Chief, International Bureau, Kiran Duwadi, Economist, SAND, and Arthur Lechtman, Attorney, SAND.

Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, as amended, requires that the Commission include an international comparison of broadband service capability in its annual broadband progress report.¹ In the Notice of Inquiry in GN Docket No. 11-121 (NOI), the Commission requested comment on, among other things, the preparation of next year's International Broadband Data Report (IBDR) and how best to include this

¹ 47 U.S.C. § 1303(b).

international comparison in the Eighth Broadband Progress Report.² The Commission specifically asked what improvements could be made to the data and analysis in the 2011 IBDR³ that was released in May 2011. Comments on the NOI were due September 6, 2011; reply comments are due on October 4, 2011. Participants at the September 8 meeting with Scott Wallsten discussed the following possible improvements to the IBDR:

- Identify to the extent possible differences in broadband usage across countries.
- Compare cost/speed of broadband across countries, controlling for usage in those countries (using, for example, a metric such as megabits/month used by a household).
- Ascertain to the extent possible the gap between advertised and actual broadband speeds across countries.
- Analyze the cost of broadband for a given speed after correcting for the gap between actual and advertised speed.

² Inquiry Concerning the Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Capability to All Americans in a Reasonable and Timely Fashion, and Possible Steps To Accelerate Such Deployment Pursuant to Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, as Amended by the Broadband Data Improvement Act, GN Docket No. 11-121, *Eighth Broadband Progress Notice of Inquiry*, FCC 11-124 (rel. August 5, 2011).

³ International Comparison Requirements Pursuant to the Broadband Data Improvement Act; International Broadband Data Report, IB Docket No. 10-171, *Second Report*, DA 11-732, rel. May 20, 2011.