



POLICY & ACTION FROM CONSUMER REPORTS

October 14, 2011

Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Ex Parte* Notice
WC Docket No. 10-90 (Connect America Fund)
GN Docket No. 09-51 (National Broadband Plan)
WC Docket No. 07-135 (Establishing Just & Reasonable Rates for LECs)
WC Docket No. 05-337 (High-Cost Universal Service Support)
CC Docket No. 01-92 (Developing United ICC Regime)
CC Docket No. 96-45 (Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service)
WC Docket No. 03-109 (Lifeline and Link-Up)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On October 13, 2011, Marti Doneghy of AARP, Olivia Wein of National Consumer Law Center, Inc., and I met with Commissioner Copps and Margaret McCarthy, Policy Advisor for Broadband, Wireline, and Universal Service to Commissioner Copps.

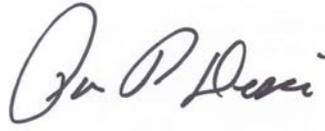
Ms. Doneghy stated that wire line service remains crucial to public health and personal welfare, especially for older Americans. She also stated that any increase in the cost of basic telephone service via a cost recovery mechanism for local carriers or an increase in the subscriber line charge impacts the affordability of home phone service in these tough economic times. Finally, Ms. Doneghy stated that the savings to wireless consumers would be only pass through savings, and historically, pass through savings are usually at the discretion of industry.

Ms. Wein remained concerned about how tangible the \$1 billion in benefits from the ICC reform would be. She also expressed concern that the adoption issue is not being addressed head on in the ICC/High cost reform docket and that the low-income broadband affordability could languish in the Lifeline reform proceeding.

I urged the Commission to reform USF and ICC in a manner that will not increase rates for consumers. I stated that reductions in ICC payments should not be offset by increases in the rates that consumers pay. Finally, I stated the USF reform effort must provide actual benefits to consumers.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §1.1206(b), this letter is being filed electronically with your office today.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Parul P. Desai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Parul" being the most prominent.

Parul P. Desai
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