

October 19, 2011

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

RE: Notice of *Ex Parte* presentation in:      WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 7-135, 05-337, 03-109  
   GN Docket No. 09-51  
   CC Docket No. 01-92, 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On October 17, 2011, Harold Feld, Legal Director, Public Knowledge (PK), spoke with Zach Katz, Advisor to Chairman Genachowski, with regard to the above captioned proceedings. Mr. Feld had a substantially similar conversation with Margaret McCarthy, Advisor to Commissioner Capps, and with Angela Kronenberg, Advisor to Commissioner Clyburn.

PK urged the Commission to adopt the BTOP/BIP language submitted in the NAF/PK/Benton Letter of October 5, 2011. PK noted that there is a difference between resolving general interconnection concerns relating to VOIP services and requiring recipients of government subsidies to promote broadband service in unserved areas by providing comparably efficient interconnect at a point convenient to the Title I provider in the otherwise unserved area. While PK supports the Commission exercising authority with regard to VOIP-related interconnection issues, that does not address the effort to enable self-provisioning by local providers in high-cost underserved and unserved areas.

Additionally, even if non-ETCs remain ineligible for high-cost funds, the Order should explicitly recognize the valuable role that community wireless networks, WISPs, municipal broadband providers, and community anchor institutions play in providing service to unserved and underserved communities in High Cost areas. To the extent the Commission is constrained by the statute to limit funds to ETCs, the Commission should be explicit in recognizing this as a statutory limitation.

In accordance with the FCC's *ex parte* rules, this document is being electronically filed in the above-referenced dockets today.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Harold Feld  
Legal Director  
Public Knowledge

CC: Zach Katz  
Margaret McCarthy  
Angela Kronenberg