



Melissa E. Newman
Vice President – Federal Regulatory Affairs
1099 New York Avenue NW, Suite 250
Washington, DC 20001
202.429.3120

EX PARTE

October 20, 2011

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

RE: *In the Matters of 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 an Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime*. CC Docket No. 01-92; *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*. CC Docket No. 96-45; *Lifeline and Link-Up*. WC Docket No. 03-109; *Universal Service Contribution Methodology*, WC Docket No. 06-122; *Numbering Resource Optimization*, CC Docket No. 99-200; *Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions in the Telecommunications Act of 1996*, CC Docket No. 96-98; *Intercarrier Compensation for ISP-Bound Traffic*, CC Docket No. 99-68; *IP-Engaged Services*, WC Docket No. 04-36

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On October 19, 2011, Glen Post, Chairman and CEO of CenturyLink, met via telephone with FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski to discuss the above-captioned dockets and to encourage the Commission to adopt an order implementing the ABC Plan¹ and the consensus framework referenced in the joint letter filed with trade associations representing rural rate-of-return carriers filed in the same dockets on the same day.²

Mr. Post reiterated his support of the ABC Plan, noting that this proposal was a compromise by a cross section of the telephone industry and that it provides the best opportunity to get broadband

¹ Letter from Robert W. Quinn, Jr., AT&T; Steve Davis, CenturyLink; Michael T. Skrivan, FairPoint; Kathleen Q. Abernathy, Frontier; Kathleen Grillo, Verizon; and Michael D. Rhoda, Windstream; to Marlene H. Dortch, FCC, CC Docket Nos. 01-92, 99-200, 96-98, 99-68; WC Docket Nos. 05-337, 07-135, 10-90, 03-109, 06-122, 04-36; GN Docket No. 09-51 (filed July 29, 2011).

² Letter from Jonathan Banks, USTelecom, to Marlene H. Dortch, FCC, CC Docket Nos. 01-92, 96-45, 99-200, 96-98, 99-68; WC Docket Nos. 05-337, 07-135, 10-90, 03-109, 06-122, 04-36; GN Docket No. 09-51, Attach. at 1 (filed July 29, 2011).

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to millions of people in rural, high-cost areas. In addition, Mr. Post explained that intercarrier compensation reform should provide stability with a reasonable transition for telephone companies such as CenturyLink that serve some of the most rural areas in the country. Mr. Post urged the Commission to adopt an Intercarrier Compensation and Universal Service regime that accomplishes one of the primary goals and objectives of this Commission – bringing more broadband to rural America.

Sincerely,

/s/ Melissa Newman

Copy (via email) to:
FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski