



November 11, 2011

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

Re: *Ex Parte* disclosure pursuant to 47 CFR § 1.1206(b) in WC Docket No. 11-42; WC Docket No. 03-109; CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On November 9, 2011 the following individuals, who represent members of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights Media and Telecommunications Task Force, met with Angela Kronenberg, legal advisor to Commissioner Clyburn. Corrine Yu, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; Chris Calabrese, American Civil Liberties Union, Task Force Co-Chair; Cheryl Leanza, United Church of Christ, OC Inc., Task Force Co-Chair; Jason Lagria, Asian American Justice Center; Lisa Bennett, National Organization for Women; Debbie Goldman, Communications Workers of America; Mike Scurato, National Hispanic Media Coalition; and Olivia Wein, National Consumer Law Center.

The meeting attendees reviewed their top priorities for the Lifeline docket as laid out in our comments to the agency in this docket. We explained the importance of broadband to low income people, particularly in this bad economy. We believe the Commission should do the following:

- Not adopt a cap or budget limiting the Lifeline program to \$1.2 billion at this time.
- Expand Lifeline program immediately to broadband, enabling low-income participants to purchase broadband services with their monthly subsidy.
- Develop pilot programs that will address other reasons besides cost that low-income people do not adopt broadband. Dedicate \$50 million to these pilots and be ready to implement new programs based on those pilots by 2013.
- Do not automatically exclude Lifeline applicants based on whether or not they have a unique residential street address as an applicant's housing status should not be an eligibility criterion for Lifeline—this will eliminate many struggling families who are sharing an address, particularly in these economic hard times.
- Do not impose a minimum charge on no-cost cell phones, instead require companies to offer a minimum number of minutes using current data with respect to typical customer usage. In particular, we highlighted a letter from Prof. David Super just filed in the docket which demonstrates clearly the need of low-income people for mobile phones with adequate minutes.

We discussed our proposal to dedicate \$50 million toward broadband pilots. We explained that this number had assumed that the full program would be moved to supporting broadband with a monthly subsidy and that the broadband pilots would be a supplementary effort to find more useful ways to promote adoption. We expressed dismay that the Commission is

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apparently unable to find the legal authority to expand the Lifeline program to broadband even as it has just completed expanding the high cost program to broadband.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cheryl A. Leanza". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Cheryl A. Leanza
Policy Advisor, United Church of Christ, OC Inc.
Co-Chair, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights,
Media and Telecommunications Task Force