

September 17, 2012

VIA ECFS

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

**Re: Notice of Ex Parte, Universal Service Contribution Methodology, et al.
WC Docket No. 06-122; GN Docket No. 09-51**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On September 13, 2012, Noel Black of Southern Company, Holly Henderson of SouthernLINC Wireless, and I met with Christine Kurth, Commissioner McDowell's Policy Director & Wireline Counsel to discuss universal service contribution reform and its potential impact upon smart grid deployment.

During the meeting, we distributed the attached presentation and discussed the national priority of smart grid deployment and its potential to modernize the nation's electric system. Specifically, we discussed the Commission's limited authority to mandate contributions from smart grid technologies and services and the chilling effect that imposing a contribution obligation upon these systems would have upon smart grid investment and adoption, contrary to the public interest and the policy objectives expressed by Congress and by the Commission in the *National Broadband Plan*.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules, a copy of this letter and the attached presentation slides are being filed *via* ECFS for inclusion in the public record for the above proceeding. Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions or need additional information.

Respectfully submitted,



Todd D. Daubert
Counsel for SouthernLINC Wireless

cc: Christine Kurth