



INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE & TELECOMMUNICATIONS ALLIANCE

October 1, 2012

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: *Special Access Rates for Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers:*  
WC Docket No. 05-25**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On September 27, 2012, Micah Caldwell and the undersigned, on behalf of the Independent Telephone & Telecommunications Alliance, met with William Layton, Nicholas Alexander, Eric Ralph (by telephone), Ken Lynch, Betsy McIntyre, Jamie Susskind, Travis Litman, and Matthew Porter of the Commission's Wireline Competition Bureau, to discuss the Commission's recent decision to issue a comprehensive data collection order as part of its ongoing investigation of the special access marketplace.<sup>1</sup>

The special access marketplace has undergone dramatic changes over the past several years and these changes dictate that the Commission conduct a comprehensive analysis of the current state of the market. ITTA endorsed the Commission's decision to undertake the full data collection that is necessary to make an accurate assessment of the special access marketplace and supported the Commission's conclusion that its analysis must be forward-looking and include all sources of competition, including all intermodal and intramodal competition as well as carriers that self-supply special access services.

ITTA explained, however, that its members have limited resources that can be utilized to gather, correlate, and report data and, thus, require some flexibility in responding to the upcoming data request. ITTA urged the Commission to take this important factor into account in considering the scope of the data smaller carriers are required to report and the time period allotted to carriers to respond. In addition, the various systems and databases employed by smaller carriers may not provide for data to be reported in the precise manner or format the Commission outlines in its data request. ITTA urged the Commission to allow smaller carriers the flexibility to respond in the manner and to the degree dictated by their internal systems and databases.

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<sup>1</sup> *Special Access Rates for Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers*, WC Docket No. 05-25, Report and Order, FCC 12-92 (rel. Aug. 22, 2012).

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch

October 1, 2012

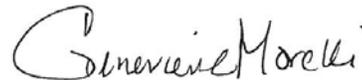
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ITTA responded to recent suggestions that the Commission adopt a *de minimis* threshold for participation in the data request. ITTA stated that under no circumstances should the Commission adopt a *de minimis* standard that exempts one or more types or classes of service provider. Should the Commission adopt a *de minimis* standard, all special access service providers, regardless of type or technology used, should be afforded the same treatment.

Finally, ITTA responded to suggestions that the Commission collect data corresponding to special access service Requests for Proposals (“RFPs”). ITTA stated that should the Commission decide that data regarding RFPs would assist in its analysis, such data should be collected from the entities issuing the RFPs, not the carriers responding to the RFPs. ITTA’s members typically do not retain information regarding unsuccessful bids, and in the limited circumstances where such data is retained, it is not kept in a centralized location or in a standardized format. Thus, it would be extremely burdensome – and likely would not produce useful data – for the Commission to collect data regarding responses to RFPs from the responding carriers.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions regarding this submission.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Genevieve Morelli". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

President  
ITTA

cc: William Layton  
Nicholas Alexander  
Eric Ralph  
Betsy McIntyre  
Ken Lynch  
Jamie Susskind  
Travis Litman  
Matthew Porter