



February 14, 2013

EX PARTE

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

Re: Procedures for Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees,
MD Docket No. 12-201, and Assessment and Collection of Regulatory
Fees for Fiscal Year 2008, MD Docket No. 08-65

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Thursday, February 14, 2013, Glenn Reynolds, David Cohen and Bill Deere of the United States Telecom Association (USTelecom) met with Roland Helvajian and Thomas Buckley of the Managing Director's Office and Mika Savir of the Enforcement Bureau to discuss updating the Commission's mechanisms for assessing and collecting its regulatory fees. USTelecom emphasized the need to address this issue this year and implement the reforms in its FY 2013 fee collection process. Reform of the regulatory fee mechanism has been under consideration for more than a decade. USTelecom emphasized that ITSP fee payers have been over-assessed for that entire time and other categories of fee payers have been under-assessed for that same period.

The Commission's lengthy consideration of regulatory fee issues, which began in 2004, and its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on the issue released in July of 2012 have provided all fee payers adequate notice that fees may be changing for the 2013 fiscal year. Therefore the need for a transition from the 2012 fees to the 2013 fees, except for the smallest fee-paying entities, is unnecessary, sustains an unfair and inequitable system and reduces the amount of funding available to ITSP fee payers for important broadband buildout and network upgrades. USTelecom also encouraged the Commission to request authority from Congress to refund previously collected regulatory fees that exceeded the congressionally-mandated levels which now amount to \$71 million.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David B. Cohen".

David B. Cohen
Vice President, Policy

cc: Roland Helvajian
Mika Sevir
Thomas Buckley