



AN ASSOCIATION OF
MONTANA HEALTH
CARE PROVIDERS

April 4, 2013

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

RE: In the Matter of: Nomination for the Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors, CC
Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

To Whom It May Concern:

MHA, An Association of Montana Health Care Providers (MHA) is pleased to support the National Rural Health Resource Center and National Rural Health Association nomination of Kipman Smith, Executive Director of the Health Information Exchange of Montana (HIEM), to serve on the board of directors of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors. Mr. Smith is being nominated to represent rural health care providers and has over 25 years of experience working in the health care industry in Montana, including most recently the successful deployment of a broadband network funded by federal universal service funds in a remote, rural Montana region.

MHA represents hospitals, nursing homes, home health agencies, hospices and physicians in Montana.

Mr. Smith has worked extensively with rural Critical Access Hospitals, certified rural health clinics and federally funded Community Health Centers during his career. Most recently, through his leadership with the HIEM, he has focused on adoption of electronic health records, health information exchange and shared telehealth/telemedicine services.

Mr. Smith spent nearly 10 years with MHA as the Director of the Montana Health Research and Education Foundation (MHREF). During this time he participated in the transition of MHREF programs into MHA, managed the Montana's rural FLEX program, and facilitated early discussions of a proposal for a new frontier healthcare provider model.

MHA believes it is important for the perspective of the relatively small, rural and frontier health providers such as those served by the HIEM to be represented on the USAC Board of Directors. MHA believes Mr. Smith is uniquely qualified and capable to fulfill this role and encourage his appointment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dick Brown".

Dick Brown
President

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