



October 18, 2013

Via Electronic Filing

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Room TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: *Ex Parte Notice - Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90; A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, GN Docket No. 09-51; High Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337; Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime, CC Docket No. 01-92; Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45; Rural Call Completion, WC Docket No. 13-39.*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On September 30, 2013, the undersigned and Ronald W. Del Sesto, Jr. of Bingham McCutchen LLP, met with Rebekah Goodheart, Legal Advisor Wireline, and Travis Litman, Assistant Chief, Telecommunications Access Policy Division. During the meeting, we emphasized the need for the Commission to resolve industry disputes involving the tariffing and collecting of end-office switching charges owed to competitive local exchange carriers when they partner with over-the-top Voice over Internet Protocol providers.¹

We also discussed the substance of the rules that could assist the industry in improving call completion rates to rural areas. We expressed our support for the data collection and reporting obligations, so long as the “two hop” safe harbor is included in the rules. Additionally, we emphasized that the “two hop” safe harbor should not count the terminating tandem as a separate hop in the call path. This is particularly important in rural areas, as multiple rural carriers often subtend a single tandem, and there is no practical way to directly connect to every rural end office. Finally, we expressed support for not counting affiliates as a separate hop as well in the call path.

¹ See, e.g., Letter from John Harrington, Inteliquent, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 05-337, GN Docket No. 09-51, CC Dockets No. 01-92, 96-45 (May 13, 2013); Letter from Samuel L. Feder, Counsel for Inteliquent, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 05-337, GN Docket No. 09-51, CC Dockets No. 01-92, 96-45 (May 10, 2013). See also Letter of John T. Nakahata, Counsel, Level 3 Communications, LLC, and Tamar Finn, Counsel, Bandwidth.com, et al., to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 05-337, GN Docket No. 09-51, CC Dockets No. 01-92, 96-45 (filed Aug. 8, 2013).



With respect to rules addressing “false ringing,” we noted that, when the called party is a wireless customer roaming on another provider’s network, completing the call may take longer than calls terminating to wireline customers. While the wireless carrier is processing the call and locating the called party, presenting the caller with ringing provides comfort that the call has been dialed correctly and is being processed.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ John Harrington

John Harrington
Senior Vice President,
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cc: Rebekah Goodheart
Travis Litman
Ronald W. Del Sesto, Jr. (Bingham)