February 21, 2014

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Federal Communication Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Notice of *Ex Parte* Communication, WC Docket No. 13-184

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On February 5, 2014, Gary Rawson, Mississippi State E-Rate Coordinator spoke, via telephone with Charles Eberle and Soumitra Das of the Federal Communications Commission. Mr. Rawson discussed the attached presentation that details Mississippi's recently updated Internet access and transport services master contract with AT&T.

In the last two years Mississippi has increased efforts to connect all K-12 schools to fiber in order to deliver increased bandwidth and migrate off the state's MPLS network structure. All 152 school districts now have fiber connections, and all schools within the AT&T footprint that have requested fiber services now have fiber. Exceptions are found in a few of the Independent Telephone Company Areas. AT&T is the largest Internet provider in Mississippi. Schools and districts are migrating toward a centralized network model under which schools are on a wide area network (WAN) that connects to a Managed Internet Service (MIS) at the district data center via fiber. The previous network design was decentralized, with many schools connected directly to the MPLS cloud and to a shared Internet service.

School districts, libraries, and state agencies with fiber connections can purchase Internet access and Metro Ethernet transport at the attached rates. MPLS attached Internet access includes filtering and firewall services, but the new MIS does not. The Mississippi Department of Education pays for K-12 Internet Access and broadband connectivity to school districts. Those connections are purchased off a state master contract. Not all school districts in Mississippi will purchase service under the master contract because many have performed their own procurement and have chosen other providers. Those school districts have entered into their own multi-year contract for broadband services or Internet access. Mr. Rawson noted that Mississippi revisits its contract with AT&T every two years and negotiates lower rates and more advanced services based on research into available pricing and services offered by in-state competitors as well as by providers in other states.

Respectfully submitted,

_____/s/_____
Charles Eberle
Attorney-Adviser, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau
Attachment