



Dykema Gossett PLLC  
4000 Wells Fargo Center  
90 South Seventh Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55402

WWW.DYKEMA.COM

Tel: (612) 486-1900

**Shannon M. Heim**

Direct Dial: (612) 486-1586

Direct Fax: (855) 223-7059

Email: SHeim@dykema.com

April 16, 2014

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

Re: Ex Parte Communication with Nicholas Degani

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Today myself, David Dengel, Copper Valley Telephone, Doug Neal, OTZ Telephone Cooperative and Michael Burke, Burke Watson on behalf of the Alaska Rural Coalition spoke to Commissioner Pai's Legal Advisor Nicholas Degani via teleconference. We discussed the proposed freeze in CETC support for Remote Alaska. We reiterated our support for a freeze in CETC support and underscored the need for a sufficient and predictable support mechanism for wireless carriers serving Remote Alaska. Continued funding will literally mean the difference between life and death for Alaskans living in the most challenging physical environments.

We also discussed the local rate floor. The Alaska Rural Coalition strongly believes that the local rate floor should be frozen at the existing rate of \$14.00. The phase in being considered by the Commission would dramatically increase costs to Alaskans living in poverty over the coming years. Forcing Alaskans to choose between food and telephone, both necessary for survival in Remote Areas, places an unacceptable burden on those who can least afford it. We strongly believe that the very policy of a local rate floor must be reexamined by the Commission. There must be flexibility and accommodation for communities that lack a cash economy since many villages in Alaska rely on a subsistence lifestyle with little access to disposable income. Drastic increases in local telephone rates defy the public interest and impermissibly invade the jurisdiction of the Regulatory Commission of Alaska to determine and approve local rates.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, a copy of this letter is being filed via ECFS in Dockets 10-90 and 05-337. If you have any questions or I may be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
April 16, 2014  
Page 2

Sincerely,

**DYKEMA GOSSETT PLLC**

s/ Shannon M. Heim

Shannon M. Heim

cc: Nicholas Degani