



November 21, 2008

David R. Arvig
President

Kelly Worthington
Executive Vice President

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th St. SW, Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

**In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrator's Board of Directors,
CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45.**

Dear Secretary Dortch:

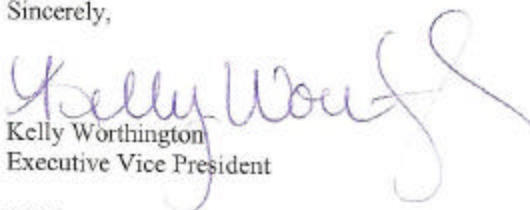
The Western Telecommunications Alliance ("WTA") unanimously supports the nomination by Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("BTC") of Jason B. Williams to serve on the Universal Service Administrative Company's ("USAC") Board of Directors to represent ILECs with annual reporting revenues of \$40 million or less. Mr. Williams currently serves on the USAC Board of Directors.

Mr. Williams works for the law firm of Christian, Samson, Jones and Chisholm, PLLC, where he focuses on rural telecommunications issues, and serves as outside counsel for WTA. Mr. Williams graduated with honors from the University of Montana School of Law and completed his undergraduate work at the University of Notre Dame. During the last few years, Mr. Williams has worked on a variety of legal and regulatory matters for WTA and several other rural telephone companies. Prior to working in private practice, Mr. Williams served as Special Assistant to FCC Commissioner Kevin J. Martin in Washington, DC where he advised the Commissioner on a variety of wireline, wireless and media issues.

Prior to his service at the FCC, Mr. Williams worked as Manager of Regulatory Affairs for XO Communications (formerly Nextlink Communications) where he focused on the company's regulatory policy. Mr. Williams also worked as a Business Development Manager for NeuStar, Inc.

WTA strongly believes that Mr. Williams should continue and will continue to make valuable contributions to the USAC Board. His experience, knowledge of the industry and his performance to date on the USAC Board, makes him the perfect candidate. If you have any questions, please contact me at (406) 433-6377.

Sincerely,


Kelly Worthington
Executive Vice President

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