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               BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION
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                                   COMMISSION
 4
     In the Matter of the Joint ) DOCKET UT-100820
     Application of
                                  )
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                                  )
                                     VOLUME V
     QWEST COMMUNICATIONS
     INTERNATIONAL, INC., and
                                  ) PAGES 603 - 642
    CENTURYTEL, INC.
 8
    For Approval of Indirect
     Transfer of Control of Qwest
 9
     Corporation, Qwest
10
     Communications Company, LLC,
     and Qwest LD Corp.
11
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           A Public Comment Hearing in the above matter was held on
14
     January 5, 2011, at 5:30 p.m., at 1300 South Evergreen Park
15
     Drive Southwest, Olympia, Washington, before Administrative Law
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     Judge MARQUERITE FRIENDLANDER.
17
18
              The parties were present as follows:
19
20
             WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, by
     JENNIFER CAMERON-RULKOWSKI, Assistant Attorney General, P.O.
21
     Box 40128, Olympia, Washington, 98504. Telephone number is
     (360) 664-1186.
22
              PUBLIC COUNSEL, by SIMON J. FITCH, Senior Assistant
23
     Attorney General, 800 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2000, Seattle,
     Washington, 98104. Telephone number is (260) 389-2055.
24
25
                      REPORTED BY: LESLEY E. KAY, CCR 3244
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1	QWEST COMMUNICATIONS INTERNATIONAL, by LISA A. ANDERL,
2	Associate General Counsel, 1600 Seventh Avenue, Room 3206, Seattle, Washington, 98191. Telephone number is (206) 345-1574.
3	
4	JOINT CLECS XO COMMUNICATIONS, COVAD, TW TELECOME OF WASHINGTON, MCLEOD TELECOMMUNICATIONS d/b/a PAETEC, CHARTER FIBERLINK and PAC-WEST TELECOMM, by MARK TRINCHERO, Attorney at
5	Law, Davis, Wright, Tremaine, 1300 Southwest Fifth Avenue, Suite 2300, Portland, Oregon, 97201. Telephone number is (530)
6	241-2300.
7	SPRINT/T-MOBILE, by JUDITH A. ENDEJAN and KENNETH SHIFMAN, Attorneys at Law, Graham & Dunn, PC, 2801 Alaskan Way,
9	Suite 300, Seattle, Washington, 98121. Telephone number is (206) 340-9694.
10	LEVEL 3, 360NETWORKS & CBEYOND, by ARTHUR BUTLER, Attorney at Law, Ater Wynne, 601 Union Street, Suite 1501,
L1	Seattle, Washington, 98101. Telephone number is (206) 623-4711.
12	DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE & FEDERAL EXECUTIVE AGENCIES, by STEPHEN MELNIKOFF, General Attorney, Office of the Judge
L3 L4	Advocate General, 901 North Stuart Street, Suite 700, Arlington, Virginia, 22203. Telephone number is (703) 696-1643.
L5	INTEGRA, by TED GILLIAM, Attorney at Law, 1201
16	Northeast Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 500, Portland, Oregon, 97232. Telephone number is (503) 453-8000.
L7	CENTURYLINK, by CALVIN K. SIMSHAW, Attorney at Law, 805 Broadway, Vancouver, Washington, 98660. Telephone number
L8	is (360) 905-5958.
L 9	
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1 PROCEEDINGS

- 2 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Good evening. It's a little after
- 3 5:30 on Wednesday, January 5th, 2011. This is the time and
- 4 place set for public comment hearing in Docket UT-100820, the
- 5 joint application of Qwest Communications International, Inc.,
- 6 and CenturyTel, Inc., for approval of an Indirect Transfer of
- 7 Control of Qwest Corporation, Qwest Communications Company,
- 8 LLC, and Qwest LD Corp. I'm Marquerite Friedlander, the
- 9 Administrative Law Judge, presiding over this matter for the
- 10 Commission. With me tonight are Chairman Jeffrey Goltz,
- 11 Commissioner Patrick Oshie and Commissioner Philip Jones.
- Just a little bit about why we're here tonight: We're
- 13 here so that we can hear your comments on the proposed merger
- 14 on Qwest and CenturyLink. The court reporter will be recording
- 15 your comments so, please, be sure to speak slowly and clearly.
- 16 We have some people, I believe, who are appearing over the
- 17 conference bridge. I don't know if they intend to provide any
- 18 kind of oral comments but we will get to them if they are of
- 19 the mind to.
- 20 Each of the parties, I believe, most of them have
- 21 representatives here tonight. I know that they're
- 22 representatives from the applicant, and we do have
- 23 Mr. ffitch -- if you would indicate your presence here.
- 24 MR. FFITCH: Good evening, Your Honor. Simon ffitch
- 25 from the Public Counsel Office.

- 1 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: We also have a member of our
- 2 Commission staff, Ms. Cameron-Rulkowski.
- 3 MS. RULKOWSKI: I'm Jennifer Cameron-Rulkowski,
- 4 Assistant Attorney General assigned to represent the Commission
- 5 staff in this matter.
- JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Thank you.
- 7 We have Mr. John Cupp who you probably saw with a
- 8 sign-in sheet.
- 9 Mr. Cupp, if you would stand up.
- 10 Thanks.
- 11 He also can help with any consumer questions you may
- 12 have because, if you've appeared at these hearings before --
- 13 you might know this, if you haven't -- the Commissioners and I,
- 14 it's inappropriate for us to talk to you about these matters
- 15 because we are the tribunal, though, there's another member --
- 16 I don't know what that would be called. But, anyway, we're the
- 17 decision-makers so it would be inappropriate for us to discuss
- 18 the matter with you, whereas Mr. Cupp is with our staff's
- 19 consumer protection section and he could probably help you if
- 20 you had some questions about the proceeding.
- 21 Typically, the Commission treats witness' comments as
- 22 testimony so I'll be swearing in anybody who would like to give
- 23 us comments today.
- 24 When I call your name, if you would go ahead and come
- 25 up with one of the seats here with a microphone, tell us your

- 1 name, especially if I mispronounced it, and where you're from
- 2 and, also, if you're a customer with one of the companies,
- 3 either Qwest or CenturyLink, and then we will go ahead and hear
- 4 from you.
- 5 Please stick around after you comment in case the
- 6 Bench has any questions for you.
- 7 At this point, if Chairman would like to speak.
- 8 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: I want to welcome all of you who have
- 9 come here tonight to make public comments and those who called
- 10 in from the bridge line. In addition to the public comments we
- 11 receive tonight, we also receive comments either by letter or
- 12 by e-mail or our website. I believe so far we received about
- 13 80, or slightly over 80, comments from members of the public
- 14 and all of those will be taken into consideration as well. I
- 15 think that avenue for comments is available until when?
- Mr. Cupp, do you know?
- 17 MR. CUPP: January 7th.
- 18 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: So, for two more days. So, if any of
- 19 you want to give comments tonight, think of something else you
- 20 want to add, it's still possible to do it in the next couple of
- 21 days. That's the way I am, I always think of something I
- 22 should have said.
- A little bit about these public comment hearings:
- 24 Today we had the first day of the formal hearing and the room
- 25 was more crowded than it is now. We must have had ten or

- 1 11 lawyers up here for the various parties, a lot of their
- 2 witnesses, and there's binder after binder full of written
- 3 testimony that we're considering and, basically, that parties
- 4 are cross-examined and the Commissioners ask questions of the
- 5 parties on various, sometimes very detailed, points about the
- 6 details of this merger. All of those are very important
- 7 things. If you want to come by tomorrow and listen to it, we
- 8 have another hearing date tomorrow. That's important.
- 9 This gives us a different perspective. These public
- 10 comment hearing give us a different perspective, and, no
- offense to the attorneys and parties in the room, but it's a
- 12 welcome one, I might add. Sometimes when you're dealing with
- 13 accounting testimony or reams and reams of detailed contractual
- 14 arrangements that we're being asked to analyze, sometimes it's
- 15 the plain ratepayer perspective on how it plays out in the real
- 16 world which is a really important perspective. I look forward
- 17 to getting that. I know, from talking with some of my
- 18 predecessors and from my own personal experience, these are
- 19 important and meaningful and they have made differences in the
- 20 past.
- 21 With that, I'll turn it over to Judge Friedlander who
- 22 can orchestrate the rest of the evening.
- JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Thank you.
- 24 At this time if I could have an indication from those
- 25 on the conference bridge if there's anyone who would like to

- 1 give oral comments tonight.
- 2 I don't hear anybody, but before we adjourn for the
- 3 night I'll ask again.
- 4 From the sign-in sheet that I was given by Mr. Cupp I
- 5 believe there's one consumer -- and I hope I pronounce this
- 6 right -- is it "M. Fry?"
- 7 MR. FRAY: Fray.
- 8 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: If you want to go ahead and come
- 9 on up to the chair and you can remain standing because I'll go
- 10 ahead and swear you in.

- 12 MATT FRAY, having been duly sworn to tell the truth,
- 13 the whole truth and nothing but the truth, testified on his
- 14 oath as follows:

- JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: You can be seated.
- 17 MR. FRAY: My name is Matt Fray. I am a former Qwest
- 18 consumer and now a CenturyLink customer. I live in
- 19 Mason County, Washington. I have, really, two questions
- 20 tonight: One is, the problem that I have had with my service
- 21 provider for the last six months, how can they think and the
- 22 State of Washington, especially Qwest, if they can't take care
- of one person's problem within a six-month period of time how
- 24 can they consider handling a Qwest Communications buy-out?
- 25 Now, let me get to the reason I'm saying that. In July of this

- 1 last year of 2010, I added a line to my service address --
- 2 MR. FFITCH: Your Honor -- I'm sorry -- I want to
- 3 interrupt Mr. Fray for a moment. I had a conversation with him
- 4 beforehand and I believe he has a written document to offer to
- 5 the Bench to help explain what his testimony and I'd advised
- 6 the Bench of that. It might be helpful.
- 7 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: If you want to come up here and
- 8 bring some copies, if you have them.
- 9 I had a clarification question: When you reference
- 10 problems with your service are you talking about residential or
- 11 business?
- 12 MR. FRAY: Residential.
- JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Thank you.
- 14 MR. FRAY: Back in July when I added a second line to
- 15 the residence address that I had had CenturyLink service with
- 16 for two-and-a-half years, I get my first bill and it was
- 17 sky-high. But then I noticed something that just didn't make
- 18 sense to me. I live in Mason County. I don't live in Grays
- 19 Harbor County. My zip code is a problem for CenturyLink.
- 20 Because of my zip code, which is 98541 in Grays Harbor County,
- 21 we have that zip code also in Mason County. I was getting
- 22 taxed for both Mason County 911, Grays Harbor County 911. I
- 23 was getting taxed from Mason County sales tax and Grays Harbor
- 24 County sales tax. Every month I called, explained the problem,
- 25 was assured that it would be taken care of. "Thank you very

- 1 much." Well, it never got taken care of. So, back in November
- 2 I called Utilities Commission, and I said, "When this first
- 3 happened I called you folks and I was told by you to call
- 4 CenturyLink and work it out with CenturyLink," which I did, I
- 5 thought, but every month double taxed, wrong County taxed. So,
- 6 finally, I got a hold of somebody there at the Commission and
- 7 she said that she would look into this for me. Well, I get a
- 8 letter from the Commission on December 9th that said that a
- 9 review of CenturyLink's records -- wait a minute. "I'm
- 10 responding to the complaint. You stated that CenturyLink was
- 11 deducting taxes for both Grays Harbor and Mason Counties. A
- 12 review of CenturyLink's records show that through an error the
- 13 company was deducting Mason County sales tax and 911 taxes
- 14 since July 24th, 2010." Now, they've got me moved back into
- 15 Grays Harbor County. I haven't moved. I'm still in Mason
- 16 County. There's a lot of people with CenturyLink telephone
- 17 numbers with 98541 zip code that live in Mason County.
- 18 So, that's why after I got this letter and called --
- 19 no. I got a call from CenturyLink which was recorded. They
- 20 said that somebody had changed something on my account, whether
- 21 it was billing, whatever, and if I had any questions to please
- 22 call a telephone number. Now, this was a recorded call, after
- 23 it got done with its spiel, it hung up. So, I dialed the
- 24 number that it told me to call if I had any questions. It also
- 25 was recorded, put in your ten digit telephone number, then you

- 1 get a recording. "If you agree to share your information,
- 2 press one. If you don't agree to share your information press
- 3 two." You either push one or two. I pushed two. I didn't
- 4 want to share my information. I wanted to talk to them about
- 5 the problem but that wasn't what I got. So, I pushed two.
- 6 They said, "Thank you. We'll not share your information and
- 7 further purchases" or whatever. Okay. This happened twice. I
- 8 have a recording of that because they are recorded messages. I
- 9 didn't have to ask anybody's permission. I do have a recording
- 10 of that. Then I get a telephone call from the Commission
- 11 stating that on -- let's see -- it was Monday -- that she had
- 12 received a call or talked to somebody from CenturyLink saying
- 13 my problem had been handled again and that they were closing
- 14 the investigation again. I said, "Please don't close the
- 15 investigation. I haven't got my bill yet."
- 16 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: Or refund.
- 17 MR. FRAY: Or refund.
- 18 The bill was made up on the 24th of December. That
- 19 was the 3rd of January. Well, I got it today. I got the bill
- 20 today and it is, so far that I've seen it, correct. But I told
- 21 her, "Please don't close it until I get my paper bill to see if
- 22 it's correct this time." Well, I also talked to the president
- of our association which has been wrongly taxed the same way
- 24 that I have --
- JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: I'm sorry to interrupt. What

- 1 association is that?
- 2 MR. FRAY: Lake Arrowhead Community Club Association
- 3 in Mason County.
- 4 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Thank you.
- 5 MR. FRAY: That's what's circled on the map there.
- 6 So, he said he got the same phone call today that
- 7 CenturyLink said that it had been taken care of and he was
- 8 going to go try to get down tonight, and, I guess, he couldn't
- 9 make it.
- 10 My question is: How can, with one person, six months
- 11 it took to straighten it out and then when they mess with your
- 12 account you don't get to talk to somebody, they give you a
- 13 telephone call, tell you that somebody has messed with your
- 14 account but the number they give you, customer service is
- 15 not -- there's a lot of Qwest customers in the State of
- 16 Washington and --
- 17 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: You had been with Owest
- 18 previously. Was it six months ago you switched to --
- MR. FRAY: Two-and-a-half years ago.
- JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Two-and-a-half years ago you
- 21 switched to CenturyLink?
- MR. FRAY: Yes.
- JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Does that conclude your comments
- 24 for today?
- MR. FRAY: My question that I'm putting before the

- 1 panel, really, after all this is, how can this go through if
- 2 they can't take care of one person, it takes six months for
- 3 customer service or billing, or whatever, to take care of one
- 4 person's tax problem when they're based in Louisiana and so
- 5 many Qwest people here can talk to and go to a Qwest place
- 6 here?
- 7 Thank you.
- 8 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: Thank you very much.
- 9 There is, among the volumes of binders of testimony
- 10 here that we're going through, there is testimony from
- 11 Mr. Cupp, for example, on consumer protection issues analogous,
- 12 it's the big picture and data and, so, that is a factor that is
- 13 before us and that we will be taking into account as we proceed
- 14 through this.
- MR. FRAY: May I add one more thing?
- JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Sure.
- 17 MR. FRAY: On my bill that I received today it says
- 18 "adjustments, \$5 credit, customer satisfaction credit."
- 19 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: How much was that?
- 20 MR. FRAY: \$5. Customer satisfaction credit.
- 21 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: Thank you.
- 22 I want to thank our consumer protection staff for
- 23 finally helping and getting this resolved. Thank you very
- 24 much.
- JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Thank you.

- 1 That is the only person I have signed up for comments.
- 2 Is there anyone on the conference bridge at this time
- 3 who would like to make a comment to the Commission?
- 4 Hearing nothing, I want to thank you all for
- 5 attending. I appreciate your time and your comments. And, as
- 6 always, we place a great importance on the comments that we
- 7 receive at public comment hearings and I want you to know that.
- 8 If there is nothing else we are adjourned. Thank you.
- 9 MS. MERCHAND: Hello. This is Ann Merchand with the
- 10 Colville Tribe. I thought there was a representative there
- 11 that were going to be speaking.
- 12 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: I don't have anyone listed on our
- 13 sign-in sheet so, apparently, the in-person rep didn't show up.
- Mr. Cupp, is there anyone downstairs?
- 15 MR. CUPP: I will check.
- 16 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Could you say your name again?
- MS. MARCHAND: Ann Marchand.
- 18 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: I think Mr. Cupp, our consumer
- 19 protection representative, is going to go downstairs to see if
- 20 there is anyone physically present in the lobby waiting to come
- 21 upstairs but at this time we don't have anyone.
- 22 Would you like to make a public statement to the
- 23 Commission?
- 24 MS. MARCHAND: Well, yes, if the tribal leaders aren't
- 25 there to do that. I spent time with individuals preparing the

- 1 information for them to go over in this.
- 2 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Mr. Cupp is indicating there is no
- 3 one waiting downstairs so if you would like to proceed I can
- 4 swear you in at this time.

- 6 ANN MARCHAND, having been duly sworn to tell the
- 7 truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, testified on
- 8 her oath as follows:

- 10 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Thank you. You can proceed.
- 11 MS. MARCHAND: My name is Ann Marchand with the
- 12 Colville Federated Tribe with the information technology
- 13 division for the Colville Tribe.
- 14 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Could you go ahead and please
- 15 speak slowly and clearly and maybe spell your last name for us?
- MS. MARCHAND: M-A-R-C-H-A-N-D.
- 17 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Thank you.
- 18 MS. MARCHAND: Well, we're on the Colville Indian
- 19 Reservation comprised of one point four million acres of Ferry
- 20 County and Okanogan County, approximately half of which is
- 21 CenturyLink area and half of which is Qwest territory. We have
- 22 filed for broadband grant opportunities because we're lacking
- 23 in broadband capability here because of the lack of the two
- 24 incumbent covenants' ability or desires to upgrade facilities
- 25 here. The tribe is basically taken upon itself to connect its

- 1 own governmental operations spanning over one point four
- 2 million acres, like I said, and it's trouble enterprises and
- 3 even some residents to get adequate enough service for voice
- 4 and data communication via a very, very costly T-1
- 5 infrastructure purchase through either one of these two ILEC.
- 6 With that, I'd have to say as both a former telecommunications
- 7 technician for the Tribe and a lead technician and into the
- 8 interim IT director position that I'm currently holding that we
- 9 had a great amount of service issues, primarily on
- 10 CenturyLink's side more so than Qwest side. Their nearest CO
- 11 is in Wilbur, which is, approximately, 40 miles from us. We've
- 12 had instances where they left circuits down in excess of 24
- 13 hours on up to even 72 hours with the last outage, and we have
- 14 confirmed with them on numerous times that the issues resided
- 15 in their circuit, in their infrastructure, that we confirmed
- 16 beyond a shadow of a doubt that it was not our equipment and
- 17 this was going to a 24/7 correctional facility. So they had no
- 18 voice or data services for 72 hours. I find that totally
- 19 unacceptable, especially with the amount that we compensate
- 20 these ILEC for these critical circuits. We have an instance of
- 21 them putting in dark fiber that we also confirmed ourselves
- 22 that is in going from the town of Inchelium, Washington, to
- 23 right up to Highway 21 where it just ends. About 15 miles
- 24 south of that would be the town of Keller, Washington, and this
- 25 dark fiber has been in this, to my understanding, since 2004.

- 1 That is the only extent that they've gone to upgrade any of
- 2 their facilities but it's not doing any good because it's not
- 3 connecting our facilities. Like I said, we have our main
- 4 agency campus in Nespelem, Washington, which doesn't even have
- 5 DSL capabilities or service available for residential nor even
- 6 any of the businesses, the main agency campus, and then in each
- 7 of the outlying districts in Omak, Okanogan County, Keller,
- 8 which is Ferry County, in Chelan, which is Ferry County, and
- 9 Nespelem, Okangan County. We have satellite offices, health
- 10 clinics, tribal police station, EMS, educational facilities,
- 11 Head Start facilities, day-care facilities, all these
- 12 governmental services and also some tribal enterprise
- 13 businesses spanning over all these areas and we have not gotten
- 14 any feedback with regard to upgrading the facilities. Some of
- 15 our residents are being told that they cannot get DSL in the
- 16 area because the current copper facilities are too antiquated.
- 17 We also have instances of lapped leases. One of their central
- 18 offices is on trust property within the town of Inchelium,
- 19 Washington, and the lease is lapsed and we had some requests
- 20 for information in that they're being non-responded to and that
- 21 will be dealt with accordingly.
- 22 We're asking for various conditions to be imposed as
- 23 part of this settlement and that they include all of our four
- 24 community within the Colville Indian Reservation upgrading the
- 25 facilities so that we have adequate broadband capabilities and

- 1 access to our people and to our tribes. We're asking because
- 2 of their inability to be responsive to out-of-service issues
- 3 that they work with the tribal IT staff which are all --
- 4 there's a staff of 22 managing and maintaining a massive
- 5 private branch exchange comprised of 17 private brand
- 6 systems -- sorry -- I meant voice system on their own to the
- 7 desktop. We do the outside cabling all the way into the inside
- 8 wiring. All the technicians are Nor-Cal and PXE certified, as
- 9 well as we have the equipment. So, when there's an instance or
- 10 an outage on the reservation that we are asking that they
- 11 impose training requirements to work with tribal IT staff in
- 12 order to better expedite these type of out-of-service issues,
- 13 especially when they're going to critical life safety
- 14 facilities like our health clinics, tribal police department or
- 15 correctional facilities, our senior centers, our communicate
- 16 youth centers. We worked and gone far, extremely hard on our
- own, with the antiquated facilities that are on this
- 18 reservation trying to bring in next generation technologies but
- 19 it is next to impossible with what they have available to us.
- 20 They have done some minor upgrades within the County of
- 21 Inchelium to provide DSL to a handful of residences here.
- 22 I do believe we did manage to file officially our
- 23 public comment via docket, so, anything that I may be missing
- 24 because I'm going off the cuff here.
- JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: This is Judge Friedlander. I

- 1 appreciate your comments. We did receive those comments, the
- 2 written comments that were filed -- well, I actually don't
- 3 believe they were filed. I believe they were submitted to our
- 4 customer protection section.
- 5 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: Yes, Your Honor. I can
- 6 confirm that.
- JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Thank you.
- 8 I'm not sure but I'm getting an indication that your
- 9 representative may be in attendance at this point.
- MS. MERCHAND: Okay.
- JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: So, if I can have her step forward
- 12 for further comment, if she would like.
- MS. MERCHAND: Yes. That would be great.
- 14 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: The Commission regards comment as
- 15 testimony. I'll be administering the oath and then the court
- 16 reporter will transcribe what comments you make so we'll have
- 17 them for further review.

- 19 SUZY ALLEN and SHERI MULA, having been duly sworn to
- 20 tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth,
- 21 testified on their oath as follows:

- JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Is it Miss Allen.
- MS. ALLEN: Yes.
- JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: If you would like to go ahead and

- 1 give us your comments, that would be great.
- 2 MS. ALLEN: Good evening. I'm Suzy Allen,
- 3 representative of the Colville Business Council. I'm also
- 4 representing the [unintelligible] Tribes of the Pacific
- 5 Northwest Indians, which is composed of 26 tribes from
- 6 Washington State. Overall, it's 56 tribes from Idaho, Oregon,
- 7 Washington and Montana.
- 8 Ann gave a very good description of our technical
- 9 issues that we have both with Qwest and CenturyLink on our
- 10 reservation. I confirm everything that she has apprised you
- 11 of. Ann, thank you, by the way. We got stuck in traffic and
- 12 hang-ups at the airport rental place.
- I want to let the Commission know that the Colville
- 14 Tribe was established in 1872. I give this speech wherever I
- 15 go, to the F.C.C. back in D.C. We've been established since
- 16 1872. Where I live is the Inchelium district which is the
- 17 eastern side of our reservation. On the other side of the
- 18 Columbia River which is in the south portion of the reservation
- 19 there's a community called "Dear Meadows." This has been a new
- 20 baby-boomer housing development going on across from our
- 21 reservation. It's composed of almost up to 450 to 600 homes
- 22 now. Like I said, we've been established since 1872. We've
- 23 never received, as Ann explained -- we have to deal with
- 24 antiquated copper DSL slow services. That community received
- 25 fiber in the ground with universal service funds before the

- 1 tribe ever had any upgrades. I'm sure Ann probably apprised
- 2 you of on our reservation we have section of buried fiber, dark
- 3 fiber, on our reservation going over Cash Creek, which is about
- 4 15 miles east to west to Nespelem and that fiber is laying
- 5 there dark, not doing anything, not benefiting our people.
- 6 This is depressing for me. I've been in this industry
- 7 campaigning for ten years and yet our people have not had the
- 8 opportunity to have the terrestrial networking capability on
- 9 our reservation for them to be able to have high speed internet
- 10 which is huge. We have a lot of children that have high school
- 11 students who drop out of school. Ann explained all of this. I
- 12 won't go into too much detail about that. But all around us on
- 13 the borders of our reservation everybody is getting the big
- 14 pipe to them but it's a near missing us. We applied for the RO
- 15 monies. We were denied both grant rounds, but we're dredging
- 16 forward developing a path forward how we can get fiber in on
- 17 our reservation, but with your help we can do that with making
- 18 these two providers when they merge to get our system
- 19 antiquated, their copper systems upgraded for our use on the
- 20 government side and also to our residents.
- 21 Council member Sheri Mula may want to add to that.
- Thank you.
- JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Thank you.
- Ms. Mula, did you want to add any comments?
- MS. MULA: Briefly.

- 1 Thank you very much. I certainly apologize for us
- 2 being so late but circumstances caused it.
- 3 I live on the opposite side of the reservation from
- 4 Ann, grew up there from where Suzy does. We're one point
- 5 three million acres and it takes approximately two-and-a-half
- 6 hours to drive the length from my house to her house. We're
- 7 quite mountainous. I know these are all written down and Ann
- 8 probably shared them with you when she was talking. I just
- 9 want to go through the main points that I feel are very
- 10 important, the health and the homeland security, because Grand
- 11 Coulee Dam are right next to us on our reservation there.
- 12 We're bordered by the Columbia River and the Okanogan River so
- 13 we have the problem of drugs being flown into our reservation.
- 14 Because of the dams and the homeland security I feel it's just
- 15 really important that we have good communication. We need it
- 16 for our law enforcement because of the huge area that they have
- 17 to cover.
- 18 I don't know exactly how to say this on education but
- 19 I feel we're really short-changing our young people because
- 20 when they go out to the outside world, which they have to do to
- 21 get their college educations, they're behind before they start.
- 22 They already have marks or problems to overcome living in small
- 23 areas and, particularly, on a reservation. It's hard to make
- 24 friendships and learn, and if you can't be up to speed in the
- 25 internet world today you're in problems. We definitely need

- 1 them to govern our tribe and economic development, tourism. We
- 2 have a beautiful mountainous land there and could make use of
- 3 the tourist dollars but, also, other types of economic
- 4 development would gladly come there if we had the services that
- 5 they could make use of but we don't have them.
- 6 I've been in small business myself. I was a
- 7 wood-pellet manufacturer. In small business needs the
- 8 modern-day broadband and internet.
- 9 So, Suzy gave you one example of across the river.
- 10 I'll give you one more which I like to do because it happens to
- 11 me. I'm eight miles from Omak, which is one of the larger
- 12 cities close to us. They're right across the river -- well,
- 13 part of Omak is called East Omak is on our reservation. But
- 14 I'm eight miles from Okanogan River to my house and I have to
- 15 either use dialup, which I use for quite sometime, but being on
- 16 council I feel it's really important to be connected. So I've
- 17 had to go to satellite which is quite costly for many of our
- 18 members when we have a high poverty rate and now our
- 19 unemployment rate is 65 percent, so, how are people going to be
- 20 able to pay for those extras like that? But you go eight miles
- 21 the other side of Omak and they have it. So, what's the
- 22 difference? And we know it's probably population but we have
- 23 every right to the modern conveniences that everyone else does.
- I hope, I truly hope that you will take a good look at
- 25 the written comments that we have put in it, and I don't feel

- 1 that any of them are unjust, but it'll help to bring us and our
- 2 people into the modern times.
- 3 Thank you very much.
- 4 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Thank you.
- 5 Are there any questions from the Bench?
- 6 MS. MERCHAND: If the tribal leaders there don't mind
- 7 me making one more statement I would like to.
- 8 JUDGE FRIENDLANDER: Sure. Go ahead.
- 9 MS. MERCHAND: Our primary recommendation is that this
- 10 Commission deny the transaction. We realize that the
- 11 Commission may find the transaction may be in the best in the
- 12 public interest but, if so, we're requesting that certain
- 13 conditions be imposed, and we have supplied those in writing
- 14 and grouped then into eight categories: One being financial;
- 15 two, DSL broadband; three, retail service quality; four, retail
- 16 service and retail rates; five, which is really key to me based
- 17 on the fact that they don't have on-site technicians to assist
- 18 with their out-of-service circuits or any problem that may be
- 19 in their infrastructure, and that's operations support system
- 20 working with on-site tribal technical people; six, is another
- 21 one which is of key important, which I think Suzy can speak the
- 22 most to, the Tribal Lifeline Linkup Program which we -- I know
- 23 that both carriers are required to outreach to the tribal
- 24 residents who may be eligible for those low rates, however,
- 25 that outreach doesn't happen. The tribe has had to take it

- 1 upon itself to make those residents aware and help them with
- 2 filing applications and making them understand that they can
- 3 access this low cost, even basic telephone service, however,
- 4 some of the issues lie in the fact that incumbent carriers
- 5 check with the State via offices and the tribe manages their
- 6 own type of Medicaid called "TAFNNF," "Temporary Residence for
- 7 Needy Families." They access that state database, and we also
- 8 have [unintelligible] which qualifies them for those income
- 9 phone service, so they need to be checking not with Washington
- 10 State but with the tribe's program. I'm sure Suzy can expand
- 11 on that.
- 12 Our 7th item, the 911 services which we currently have
- 13 contracted with and worked with Qwest completely on. We spend
- 14 quite a bit of money going into the upgrades in that and the
- 15 compliance with the DSL and whatnot, we want to insure there's
- 16 no issues with regard if and when CenturyLink and Qwest merge.
- 17 The rate center consolidation was eight and capital investment
- 18 and maintenance expenditures was our ninth area of condition.
- 19 But, like they advised, we did put these comments in writing.
- 20 We wanted to make sure that they were covered and on record.
- 21 That would be the end of my statement.
- JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Thank you.
- Ms. Allen, did you have anything else?
- 24 MS. ALLEN: Yes. I would like to add about the
- 25 Lifeline Linkup Program. What she said is true. They will

- 1 call the State DHA office. I think a way to resolve that is
- 2 that we require the carrier to develop a contact list for all
- 3 tribal reservations from the programs that people can qualify
- 4 for this program, that they have to get a directory of all
- 5 tribes, so when they go to check to see if they legally qualify
- 6 for the program I think that would help.
- 7 In our document that we have filed with you it is
- 8 critical and key that tribal liaison office is developed for
- 9 tribes to interface with CenturyLink. Consultation with tribes
- 10 is a huge thing for us. We need to be consulted. The
- 11 Macau Tribe had advised me that they have very poor customer
- 12 service with CenturyLink on their reservation. We made inquiry
- 13 to all the 26 tribes in the northwest but I only heard from the
- 14 Macau. Our filing was -- this was short. We had only a week
- 15 to turn around to try to get information from all the tribes.
- 16 But all the tribes stand behind us. We firmly would like to
- 17 see consultation, especially when they go to do any upgrades on
- 18 our lands because, as we stated earlier, we have the issue of
- 19 the dark fiber. If we can get consultation directly with the
- 20 carrier, that would be a very big, huge step in this industry,
- 21 because they've come on to our lands without our permission,
- 22 without going through our law and order code permitting
- 23 processes. So, that is very huge for us, otherwise, we
- 24 wouldn't have known about the dark fiber and we had to send our
- 25 technicians out to verify that it is there, that they found the

- 1 fiber vault. That's really huge.
- 2 Again, consultation with the tribes so we can do
- 3 better customer service on our lands and especially for the
- 4 Lifeline Linkup Programs. Public safety is huge on our
- 5 reservation. We're one point four million acres of mountainous
- 6 terrain. By getting the antiquated facilities upgraded --
- 7 again, I drive two mountain passes to our tribal headquarters.
- 8 That's a 62-mile drive one way to Nespelem. There's no
- 9 facilities going over those mountaintops such as fiber. So, if
- 10 we can get that connection some way to start getting something
- 11 in the ground for us tribes so we have the 21st century
- 12 advantages of technology we would really appreciate it. Again,
- 13 it goes back to consultation. We want to work with
- 14 CenturyLink, but if they don't open that door, open that
- 15 window, to help us, partner in any way to get fiber in the
- 16 ground for the benefit of our tribal members and all across the
- 17 Washington State tribes, we may never ever meet the 21st
- 18 century technologies that we so deserve.
- 19 Thank you.
- JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Thank you.
- MS. MULA: May I add?
- JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Sure.
- MS. MULA: I did mention health. I want to stress the
- 24 Tele-Meds, that would be a huge help for us. We, the tribe,
- 25 did build health clinics in two of our districts but our main

- 1 IHS facilities in Nespelem, and they could give help to give
- 2 better service if we had broadband and right now -- Suzy is
- 3 much more up to date on the different types of wire -- but I'm
- 4 told that there was a DS-3 and it wasn't big enough to handle
- 5 what they needed to put them into the other clinics. That is a
- 6 drawback. Being as large as we are and mountainous, that type
- 7 of Tele-Meds would be a huge help to us.
- JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Thank you.
- 9 Were there any questions from the Bench?
- 10 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: Just a couple things. Thank you
- 11 for coming all this way. We appreciate that. Thank you for
- 12 having a backup plan with someone on the bridge line.
- 13 You mentioned the clinic in Inchelium has inadequate
- 14 broadband or has zero broadband.
- 15 MS. ALLAN: In our Keller district which is located
- 16 inbetween Inchelium and Nespelem they have no broadband. They
- 17 only have copper. They have a little teleco which is probably
- 18 not even 200 square feet. Very small. It's the size of an
- 19 outhouse.
- 20 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: Is there a school in Nespelem, as
- 21 well,
- MS. ALLAN: Yes.
- 23 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: And they have zero broadband?
- 24 MS. ALLAN: The Nespelem School, because we got a
- 25 community-connect broadband grant we helped them get connected.

- 1 Before that they were utilizing CenturyLink through a T-1 but
- 2 when we got our community-connect broadband grant and got the
- 3 pipe to them.
- 4 MS. MERCHAND: With reference to the broadband
- 5 capabilities and what Sheri is referring to, our main IHS
- 6 facility at Inchelium in Okanogan County, which is CenturyLink
- 7 territory, Portland area Indian Health Service planned to make
- 8 our clinic a centralized hub for various surrounding Indian
- 9 Health Service facilities on the Spokane Reservation, the
- 10 Calistoga Reservation, Indian Health Clinic in Spokane and
- 11 there were two others, off the top of my head. However, we did
- 12 not make that happen because CenturyLink was unable to provide
- 13 DS-3 capable services. They could not do that. They don't
- 14 have that ability. Their facility cannot handle that. And,
- 15 just like I said, our main agency campus which handles all of
- our governmental operations, public safety, emergency response,
- 17 health care facilities, social services, education, we have all
- 18 these agencies in each of the outlying districts that I
- 19 mentioned earlier, same in Keller, which is Ferry County,
- 20 Chelam, which is Ferry County and Omak, which is Okanogan
- 21 County. Our governmental services and operations, health and
- 22 safety, public safety, education, all, like I said, span over
- 23 that one point four million acres and are very -- the voice and
- 24 data services are completely reliant upon the costly T-1
- 25 infrastructure through both of these ILEC.

- 1 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: I have no other questions. I was
- 2 going to say some of the issues that you raised maybe not
- 3 resolved or not able to be resolved in the context of this
- 4 merger proceeding but they're still issues that might be
- 5 ongoing. I'm thinking about the Lifeline Linkup issues that
- 6 you have. I hope you feel free at any time to write us or call
- 7 us. I was going to say, "Go to the website," but maybe that's
- 8 not the right thing to say. But you can write a letter to the
- 9 executive director and that will get to us and we'll be happy.
- 10 That's a formal letter to the Commission.
- MS. MERCHAND: Thank you ery much.
- 12 If we did note that within the settlement it was -- I
- 13 believe Nespelem is mentioned as part of the communities for
- 14 upgrade. We need all four of those communities to be on that
- 15 listing as part of the condition.
- 16 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Thank you.
- 17 Thank you, Ms. Merchand.
- 18 Commissioner Jones, did you have any questions?
- 19 COMMISSIONER JONES: Just one question.
- Thank you for coming all this way, as well.
- This is Commissioner Jones for Ms. Merchand.
- 22 It's my understanding that you applied for two grants,
- 23 two federal grants, one was B Top Grant through NTIA and one an
- 24 RUS Grant with the U.S.D.A. You were denied for both those
- 25 grants? Can you give a brief background as to how much you

- 1 were asking for and why you were denied.
- 2 MS. MERCHAND: The first grant we actually applied
- 3 through B Top only, and we have applied for 275 route fiber
- 4 throughout the reservation along key routes, Highway 155,
- 5 Highway 21, and Bridge Creak going over into Inchelium over to
- 6 the Colville area. Our plans were to interconnect with the
- 7 surrounding counties, Grant County, Okanogan County, Ferry
- 8 County, and Steven County, which would also have bridged us a
- 9 grant in Okanogan on part of knowing into it fiber network,
- 10 basically making it one of the largest fiber networks in
- 11 Washington State. Washington State did rank our first
- 12 application as six in the top ten of their rankings of, I
- 13 think, 220 applicants. I'm not sure on that. But the total
- 14 cost on that, again, was 25 point four million for that 144
- 15 strand fiber throughout the reservation, and we had key buy-ins
- 16 and possible partnerships knowing that Grant County, Okanogan
- 17 County, Ferry County and Stevens County.
- 18 The second grant we changed it up a little bit. The
- 19 first grant was going to be a middle mile open access network.
- 20 The second round we changed up and went with a last file open
- 21 access network where we were going to go to another 285 miles
- 22 of fiber connect and some directly to houses, 2,500, if I'm not
- 23 correct, and those figures came out to be 26.4 million,
- 24 somewhere in that area. I don't have my paperwork in front of
- 25 me. We were not denied that particular grant. We made it

- 1 through the due diligence phase and all the changes that the
- 2 RUS had expected of us said it met their requirements of the
- 3 grant, however, they were out of funds at that time.
- 4 MS. ALLAN: That was when it came up through the
- 5 review process. We had met with U.S.D.A. back in November
- 6 because we asked for a follow-up to find out why we weren't
- 7 awarded.
- 8 COMMISSIONER JONES: Thank you for that.
- 9 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: And thank you --
- 10 MS. ALLAN: I would like to add, because of our
- 11 mountainous terrain, it'll cost to get fiber buried over those
- 12 mountaintops because you have to have the speciality equipment
- 13 to get it buried, so that drives the cost up, and now with the
- 14 broadband grant that have been awarded, that's going to drive
- 15 the cost of getting infrastructure for our tribe. We're
- 16 looking at other avenues, as I stated earlier to try to get
- 17 fiber buried on our reservation, but it's going to be at a cost
- 18 because the fiber is going to go up and then we're worried
- 19 about it being in stock. So, all that comes with a cost.
- Thank you.
- JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Thank you.
- Thank you all for your comments today.
- Ms. Taylor.
- 24 MS. TAYLOR: I'd be happy to add some information.
- 25 ///

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1
             MARY TAYLOR, having been duly sworn to tell the truth,
     the whole truth and nothing but the truth, testified on her
 2
 3
     oath as follows:
 4
 5
              JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: You can proceed.
 6
             MS. TAYLOR: Good evening, Commissioners. I don't
 7
     have answers -- my name is Mary Taylor with CenturyLink -- to
     all of the issues that the ladies just raised that testified,
     but a couple things I wanted to hit on. Namely, starting with
10
     Nespelem, as you know in the settlement agreement, that's one
11
     of the communities that we called out as one of the communities
12
     that will deploy broadband in. What I did after receiving a
13
     letter late yesterday afternoon is I went in to see when that
14
     central offices enable will that get us to the campus that they
15
     mentioned on the Nespelem and it will. And at campus -- this
16
     list is off your website -- I may miss something -- but it'll
17
     cover the Indian agency -- these are Colville Indian Agency,
18
     the Nespelem Bureau of Indian Affairs, Colville Business
19
     Council Trial Offices, Colville Trival Police Service, Colville
20
     Convalescent Center, the Colville Housing Authority, Colville
21
     Tribe -- I'm sorry -- Senior Center, the Health Services. I'm
22
     not sure what Colville Tribal Credit is. There's Colville
     Tribal Law on that campus, Colville Tribal School District,
23
24
     Colville Tribal Service Corp. and Trading Post Grocery Store.
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Again, as far as the other communities that have been

- 1 mentioned, those communities, along with all of the others
- 2 within the footprint, the combined company footprint will be
- 3 evaluated in that 180-day plan. I can't tell you what the
- 4 final outcome will be but that's one of the comments we've
- 5 agreed to is to go through each exchange and look at those wire
- 6 centers to see if the combined network is now, where we
- 7 couldn't make it work previously, if the combined networks
- 8 allowed us to do that and the Nespelem is an example, although
- 9 we don't have all of the engineering records with the limited
- 10 understanding of the networks that we have now, Nespelem where
- 11 before it wouldn't work for us, with the Qwest combination,
- 12 that's a community we can serve. We intend to look at the
- 13 combined footprint for all of the communities. That's what the
- 14 180-day report is intended to do.
- 15 As far as the W tap issue, another element of the
- 16 settlement agreement is is to work with the staff on outreach
- 17 efforts. There's also, specifically, as if there's a name
- 18 change, which is what we did in the Embark settlement, there's
- 19 notification to the tribal units or tribal agencies but there
- 20 is a W tap. I don't remember what we called it in the
- 21 settlement agreement but it's outreach program to work with the
- 22 protection staff. I think that may alleviate or improve some
- 23 of the efforts. I know on the CenturyLink side -- I can't
- 24 speak to it on the Qwest side -- we have a very robust outreach
- 25 program. It was implemented as a result of some F.C.C.

- 1 activity.
- 2 So, again, I want to point out that with the
- 3 deployment within the Nespelem central office we will help that
- 4 main campus with the 1,300 feet of the central office so those
- 5 will be covered.
- 6 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: We may have more questions of
- 7 that later when we process it through.
- 8 MS. TAYLOR: I wanted the ladies to know.
- 9 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: You can have further
- 10 conversations with them afterward.
- MS. TAYLOR: Thank you.
- 12 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Thank you for your comments.
- 13 I believe we have one other comment. Ms. Brandon.
- 14 MR. FFITCH: Your Honor, partly for the information of
- 15 the Colville Tribe representatives' written comment that was
- 16 sent in will be included in the public comment exhibit and
- 17 offered for the record along with other written comments that
- 18 have been provided to the Commission, so it will formerly find
- 19 its way into the record in that fashion unless the Commission
- 20 wants to treat it in some other way.
- 21 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: I wasn't going to suggest treating
- 22 it in another way. I was going to reiterate what Mr. Cupp
- 23 mentioned and that is we've received written comments through
- 24 the 7th. All of those would be included with the public
- 25 comment exhibit.

- 1 JENNIFER BRANDON, having been duly sworn to tell the
- 2 truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, testified on
- 3 her oath as follow:

- 5 MS. BRANDON: Good evening. Thank you for the
- 6 opportunity to comment, and I also apologize for being late.
- 7 We should have met on the highway and taken advantage.
- 8 My name is Jennifer Brandon. I'm the executive
- 9 director of community Voicemail. We're located in Seattle,
- 10 Washington, but we provide services to approximately people
- 11 living in approximately 25 of Washington's counties and an
- 12 additional 44 cities around the country and in Canada.
- 13 I'm here on behalf of more than 10,000 Washingtonians
- 14 who are low income and facing some kind of economic crisis.
- 15 I'm also here on behalf of approximately 400 human service
- 16 agencies who may be community-based organizations, what we call
- 17 "CBO's" or government services organizations as well as
- 18 libraries, churches, faith-based organizations, tribal support
- 19 service, et cetera, and, basically, I'm here in the spirit of
- 20 the new year, I guess, to say that I'm pleased to see that
- 21 there were conditions applied to the merger, but my view is
- 22 that they're somewhat wearied, they look like they have been
- 23 through a weary process and I would like to take the
- 24 opportunity to use this period to ask for some conditions that
- 25 are more systemic and less transactional. What I mean by that

- 1 is, that the State and so many of the people living in it are
- 2 in crisis and I feel like this is an opportunity to kind of
- 3 look at what hasn't worked and to try to make things better and
- 4 contribute in a way that they can be better.
- 5 I'll go back for just a minute. Community Voicemail
- 6 fulfills a safety net. It's a safety net for low income
- 7 people. We provide a gap in the State of nation's school. We
- 8 can fill a gap in the goal that the State and the nation has as
- 9 ensuring telephone services by providing local telephone number
- 10 and a private voice mailbox, community Voicemail allows our
- 11 clients to access work, access veterans' benefits, find stable
- 12 housing, shield from abusive relationships, maintain contact
- 13 with friends and family. Despite our success in assisting
- 14 clients in any of these ways we can see a growth in the
- 15 population of people in need and our typical clients live on
- 16 less than \$600 a month. My concern is that in this case the
- 17 merger applicants projected that the merger of Qwest and U.S.
- 18 West will serve the public interest by producing significant
- 19 affects that will lead to substantial benefits for customers.
- 20 They state the merger will, quote, "generate \$625,000,000 in
- 21 annual operation and capital synergies," end quote. These
- 22 synergies won't create new jobs. Where are these people going
- 23 to go? They're going to be going to the organizations that I
- 24 represent. These organizations are bursting at the seams and
- 25 after next weeks session starts I think they'll be bursting

- 1 even more. These are people who have lost their job, are
- 2 probably going to lose their health insurance. If basic health
- 3 goes away they don't have that option there losing their homes
- 4 and they're being told to get in line with organizations who
- 5 have also had to lose staff or just say let's do more with
- 6 less. I'm not here to paint telephone companies or
- 7 corporations as the bad guys, that's too easy, but we're all
- 8 hurting and we are all digging really deep. And these
- 9 synergies that are expected -- I guess I'll go back to the
- 10 people who are facing this. They're getting in line. They're
- 11 going to libraries. They're told to get on line and apply for
- 12 benefits that may not exist and so many times people who are in
- 13 crisis have no idea where to turn. These are people who are
- 14 not used to going to social services so I guess I would -- I
- 15 think there's a synergy for the companies but there's a cost
- 16 shift and downstream that's hitting the CBO's and government
- 17 agencies and families and faith-based organizations.
- 18 I think that this is an opportunity to look at more
- 19 than transactional conditions and to think about how are there
- 20 ways to prevent the cost shifting hurting more the
- 21 organizations that are designed to be the safety net. These
- 22 organizations are going as fast as they can. They're going to
- 23 be seeing more and more people and those people are not
- 24 necessarily -- they may be customers and benefit from the rate
- 25 freeze or the promise that rates won't be hiked but they need

- 1 more than that.
- 2 Final statement is that while competition may serve
- 3 well the Washingtonians with access and who can afford a choice
- 4 and telephone communication services, it doesn't extend to our
- 5 clients. I've been doing this work for 12 years and when I
- 6 tell people what I do and one of the first comments is, "Oh.
- 7 You must get support from the telephone companies," and I would
- 8 say, "Yeah. That's what everybody says but instead we've been
- 9 viewed as competition." Again, that's not to put down the
- 10 industry, that's to say that around 400 human services agencies
- 11 are not necessarily having great relations with the telephone
- 12 company and that just saying we're going to make lifeline
- 13 outreach better, we've been trying to do that for over
- 14 ten years. It doesn't work until somebody can figure out how
- 15 it's profitable and that's how the wireless companies are
- 16 doing. That's fine. That's absolutely fine. But let's not
- 17 try to do that anymore. If it's not working let's try
- 18 something else.
- 19 I guess I wanted to end my comments just by saying
- 20 that I appreciate that we're all in hard situations and I'm
- 21 grateful for this opportunity to give public comments,
- 22 especially be the voice for so many of these hard working
- 23 agencies and then the people who come to them and asking
- 24 CenturyTel, Qwest and the Commission to use this merger as an
- 25 opportunity to think a little more boldly, more systemically

1	and please to involve the community safety net or the
2	infrastructure that is in place.
3	Thank you.
4	JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Thank you.
5	Were there any questions from the Bench?
6	Thank you.
7	Are there any other persons on the bridge line who
8	would like to present comments to the Commission today?
9	It does not appear that there are any other
10	individuals in the hearing room who have not already given
11	comments or who indicated that they didn't want to give
12	comments.
13	At this time I'll thank everyone for showing up and
14	letting us hear your voice.
15	We're adjourned.
16	Thank you.
17	(Conclusion of proceedings.)
18	
19	
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21	
22	
23	
24	
25	

1	Certificate
2	
3	I, LESLEY E. KAY, a duly authorized Court Reporter and
4	Notary Public in and for the State of Washington, residing in
5	Olympia, do hereby certify;
6	That the foregoing proceedings were taken before me
7	and thereafter transcribed by me by means of computer-aided
8	transcription; that the transcript is a full, true and complete
9	transcript of said proceedings;
10	That I am not a relative, employee, attorney or
11	counsel of any party to this action, or relative or employee of
12	any such attorney or counsel, and I am not financially
13	interested in the said action or the outcome thereof;
14	That upon completion of signature, if required, the
15	original transcript will be securely sealed and the same served
16	upon the appropriate party.
17	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and
18	affixed my official seal this day of January, 2011.
19	
20	
21	
22	LESLEY E. KAY WA CCR #3244
23	CA CSR #6847 NV CCR #791
24	
25	