



Washington State Legislature

March 2, 2010

Chairman Jeff Goltz
Washington Utilities and Transportation
Commission
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive SW
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Commissioner Patrick Oshie
Washington Utilities and Transportation
Commission
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive SW
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Commissioner Philip Jones
Washington Utilities and Transportation
Commission
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive SW
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Dear Chairman Goltz and Commissioners Oshie and Jones:

We understand that you have been meeting with AT&T, WITA and some of WITA's member companies to discuss issues related to universal service and to determine what changes, if any, might be needed to preserve and advance the telecommunications network in the State of Washington.

We are pleased that you are having this dialogue, and encourage you to give the matter your urgent attention. Universal service -- the widespread availability of telecommunications services at reasonable rates -- has been a long-standing policy of the State of Washington, and is essential to the economic well-being of the state and to consumers. A modern public network to which all consumers and communication providers in the state have reasonable access should be advanced as well as maintained.

We are aware that the Commission has tentatively established a series of three workshops on this subject. We urge you to adopt the schedule of workshops to begin in early April 2010, and ask that you report to us on the outcomes of those discussions, including any policy or legislative recommendations, by October 1, 2010 so that we may be prepared to address these issues in the 2011 legislative session.




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We recognize the complexity of the issues and the amount of work required to address them. However, we believe that a robust communications network is critical to the economic well-being of the state, and that these discussions are necessary to ensure that state policies and regulation are appropriate to maintain and advance that network.

Thank you for your attention to this request.


Sincerely,



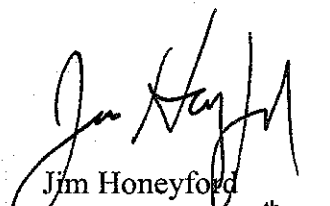
John McCoy
State Representative, 38th LD



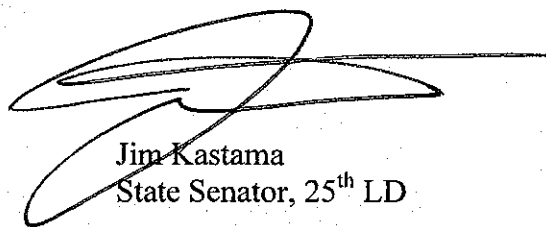
Larry Crouse
State Representative, 4th LD



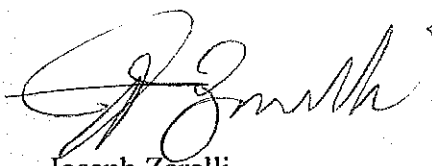
Phil Rockefeller
State Senator, 23rd LD



Jim Honeyford
State Senator, 15th LD



Jim Kastama
State Senator, 25th LD



Joseph Zarelli
State Senator, 18th LD