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**Abe M. Friedman**  
Manager - Regulatory Affairs  
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December 10, 1999

Ms. Carole Washburn  
Executive Secretary  
Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive, S.W.  
Olympia, Washington 98504

Re: *In the matter of the Commission's Inquiry into Line Extension Tariffs – UT-991737*

Dear Ms. Washburn:

Enclosed is a copy of U S WEST's comments concerning a line extension rulemaking. U S WEST appreciates the Commission's attention to the needs of customers and telecommunications providers with respect to line extension service. However, U S WEST believes that the appropriate forum in which to examine line extension issues is in the Commission's inquiry into universal service or its inquiry into obligation to serve.

U S WEST urges the Commission to pursue the issues of obligation to serve and universal service in the open inquiries into those issues and not on a piecemeal basis in other forums. To do otherwise complicates the interrelated issues in those inquiries and risks inconsistent and incomplete resolution of these issues.

If you have any questions regarding U S WEST's comments in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at (206) 345-3331.

Sincerely,

Abe M. Friedman

Enclosures