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May 11, 2009

Chairman Jeff Goltz and Commissioners Patrick Oshie and Phillip Jones  
c/o Dave Danner, Executive Secretary  
Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW  
Olympia, Washington 98503-7150

**RE: Docket No. UT-082119: In the Matter of the Joint Application of Embarq Corporation and CenturyTel, Inc. for Transfer of Control**

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

Embarq Corporation and CenturyTel, Inc. are very appreciative of all the parties' efforts resulting in the global settlement agreement in this case. The companies are very close to meeting their goal of concluding regulatory review of the merger, upon which closing the transaction critically relies. We are writing to briefly highlight this goal and reinforce its importance.

In the interest of our customers, employees, and shareholders, we are working to conclude all state regulatory proceedings as soon as possible, but in any event no later than May 28, 2009. We believe, as discussed in our direct and rebuttal testimony in this case, that the transaction will yield substantial benefits to the companies' Washington customers. Timely regulatory approvals are critical to fully realizing those benefits. Additionally, the interests of employees, capital markets, and shareholders are directly impacted by the timing of the merger's closing.

As of this date, twelve of fifteen states reviewing the merger have already approved it. Another eighteen states did not require prior approval. We have been working diligently with the remaining states and expect to achieve timely decisions. In addition, we have cleared the Department of Justice Hart Scott Rodino process, received approval from both companies' shareholders, and expect a timely decision from the FCC. Thus, we are optimistic that we will meet or exceed our goal.

Recognizing that the Commission has other important work that it is conducting, we remain very appreciative of all parties' efforts to date and any additional efforts by the Commission to render a final decision in this case within this timeframe. Thank you for considering our comments.

Respectfully submitted,

Glen F. Post, III, Chairman & CEO  
CenturyTel, Inc.

Tom Gerke, CEO  
Embarq Corporation