0019	
1	BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
2	UTILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
3	
4	<pre>In the Matter of Frontier</pre>
5	Inc.'s Petition to be Regulated)Docket No. UT-121994 as a Competitive)Pages 19-44
6	Telecommunications Company) Pursuant to RCW 80.36.320.)
7	
8	PUBLIC HEARING, VOLUME II Pages 19-44
9	BEFORE CHAIRMAN DAVID W. DANNER
10	UTILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
11	
12	
13	Taken at Everett Community College
14	Everett, Washington
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	

DATE TAKEN: MAY 23, 2013

REPORTED BY: MELONIE RAINEY, RPR, CCR 2797

24

25

0020		
1		APPEARANCES
2		
3		
4 5	CHAIRMAN:	DAVID W. DANNER Utilities and Transportation Commission 1300 South Evergreen Park Drive SW
6		Olympia, Washington 98504 360.664.1208
7		ddanner@wutc.wa.gov
8	ATTORNEY GENERALS:	JENNIFER CAMERON-RULKOWSKI Assistant Attorney General
9		P.O. Box 40128 Olympia, Washington 98504
10		360.664.1186 jcameron@utc.wa.gov
11		SIMON J. FFITCH
12		Senior Assistant Attorney General 800 Fifth Avenue
13 14		Suite 2000 Seattle, Washington 98104 206.389.2055
15		simonf@atg.wa.gov
16	ALSO PRESENT:	JOHN CUPP
17		Public Involvement Coordinator
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		* * * * *

0021	-	
1	PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING	
2		
3		
4		D3.65
5	TESTIMONY OFFERED BY	PAGE
6	George Cowan	24
7	Glen Scalf	28
8	Steve Walcker	31
9	Carol Ehlers	36
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		

1	EVERETT, WASHINGTON; MAY 23, 2013
2	6:05 P.M.
3	-000-
4	
5	
6	CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right, let's go on the record.
7	Good evening. You can't see me, maybe you want to move over to
8	this side.
9	Good evening. This is the public comment hearing for
10	the matter before the commission entitled, In the Matter of
11	Frontier Communication Northwest Inc's Petition to be Regulated
12	as a Competitive Telecommunication's Company Pursuant to RCW
13	80.36.320. It is Docket UT-121994.
14	This is a matter that arises under a statute in
15	Washington State that allows a telecommunication company to
16	apply for classification to for competitive classification
17	for services or as a company. What that means is, in Washington
18	State historically telephone companies have been regulated as
19	monopolies where utilities and transportation commission has
20	established their rates and their service quality and their
21	service standards.
22	Recognizing that the telephone industry was changing
23	and becoming more competitive from the days of the old Bell
24	system, state law anticipated that there would be an increase in
25	participants in the telecommunication marketplace, and if the

- 1 and if they allowed, if the UTC determined that a company was in
- 2 fact competitive or participated in a competitive environment,
- 3 it could change the conditions by which it regulates the company
- 4 and, in fact, not regulate their rates or have as much
- 5 regulation of their services. So that was the petition that the
- 6 company filed with the UTC in December of last year.
- 7 Since that time, the parties to this case have
- 8 reached a settlement, which will come before the UTC later this
- 9 month, and there is a sheet which has been prepared by the
- 10 public counsel's office of the Attorney General which describes
- 11 the settlement that will be before the commissioners next -- I
- 12 can't remember the date -- next Wednesday.
- 13 My name is Dave Danner. I am the chairman of the
- 14 UTC. And I am here representing the commission tonight to hear
- 15 comments of interested members of the public who want to comment
- 16 on the proposed settlement or the petition by the company.
- To my right, are the Assistant Attorney General,
- 18 Simon Ffitch, from the office of public counsel and in the
- 19 Attorney General's Office, and also Jennifer Cameron-Rulkowski,
- 20 who is an Attorney General representing the staff of the
- 21 Utilities and Transportation Commission. And in an adjuratory
- 22 state before the UTC, the staff operates as an independent
- 23 party.
- 24 So with that, I am here tonight to listen to you,
- 25 because in our decisions, in our deliberations, it's important

- 1 that the commission have the benefit of the opinions and the
- 2 perspectives of people who are customers of the companies or
- 3 interested in the matter who are not, you know, just the lawyers
- 4 or the company representatives.
- So, with that, I want to give an opportunity to
- 6 people here tonight. I appreciate your taking time out from
- 7 your evening, your dinner hour, to come and talk to me. And so
- 8 with that, I would like to invite you to come and share your
- 9 comments.
- 10 I would like it if you were planning to speak
- 11 tonight, I would ask that you stand so I can swear you in. So
- 12 if you're -- so if you're planning to speak tonight, please
- 13 stand.
- 14 (Public speakers stand.)
- 15 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Please raise your right hand.
- 16 (Public speakers sworn in.)
- 17 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right, so we will start with
- 18 George Cowan. If you would like to come up to the podium.
- 19 MR. COWAN: Thank you for the opportunity here.
- 20 CHAIRMAN DANNER: I just ask you to for the record,
- 21 because this is being recorded by the court reporter, you tell
- 22 us your name and your community and where you're from.
- MR. COWAN: George Cowan, C-O-W-A-N. And I live in
- 24 the Warm Beach area, which means that it's six miles south of
- 25 Stanwood.

- 1 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Okay. Are you a customer of
- 2 Frontier?
- 3 MR. COWAN: Yes.
- 4 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Are you in any way affiliated with
- 5 the company?
- 6 MR. COWAN: No.
- 7 CHAIRMAN DANNER: So go ahead.
- 8 MR. COWAN: Okay. Thank you, sir.
- 9 Yeah, I was -- several years ago I got my computer
- 10 going and my -- of course my telephones, so forth, and at that
- 11 time it was Verizon that was handling all of that. And as
- 12 probably everybody knows, it was Frontier Communications then
- 13 that did purchase that -- that whole situation, at least from
- 14 Stanwood area. I don't know how wide it was, but they purchased
- 15 the -- at least the telephone system and also the internet
- 16 system from Verizon at that time several years ago. I don't
- 17 remember. I don't know how long ago that was. Just to kind of
- 18 give a better background.
- 19 My greatest concern is that the cost of the internet
- 20 connection with my computer is quite drastic, the increase from
- 21 one month just to the next month, that means the last two
- 22 months. And my internet, which I had the DSL, perhaps everybody
- 23 goes by DSL, means it's a lower cost of the internet service.
- 24 It was at -- just two months ago it was \$20.99 for my DSL, and
- 25 the next month, which is the current month right now, it

- 1 increased from 20.99 to 28.49, which is an increase of \$7.50 in
- 2 one month. And the increase percentage-wise is 35.7 percent.
- 3 And I make those comparisons with -- without including any of
- 4 the taxes involved because it would kind of be a little
- 5 confusing because there has been some difference in the taxes,
- 6 so I wanted to keep it -- the taxes out.
- 7 I had a lot of time and never did get to talk to
- 8 somebody. I tried several hours to try to talk to somebody
- 9 using the information that Frontier had on the bill, but it was
- 10 very confusing. I never did get to talk to anybody that really
- 11 knew about what I was trying to get to. So I thought I better
- 12 get to the hearing.
- 13 So that's my greatest concern, is the cost. And I
- 14 use DSL because I have been retired for many years, I am 81
- 15 years old, and I have got to watch my budget very, very
- 16 carefully. And I don't know of any kind of competition there is
- 17 with the internet connection. I haven't gotten to that. But I
- 18 wanted to deal with this first of all to see what the decision
- 19 was going to be.
- 20 And like -- I could -- if anybody has any questions,
- 21 sir, everybody, I certainly would try to answer any questions.
- 22 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right. Just I would like to
- 23 ask for some clarification. You said that you tried for several
- 24 hours to contact Frontier?
- MR. COWAN: Yes. Not Frontier, no, the state.

- 1 CHAIRMAN DANNER: The state.
- 2 MR. COWAN: Yes. I tried to there and I never
- 3 could -- I never could get to the right person.
- 4 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Hmm.
- 5 MR. COWAN: Some of the time the lines was not
- 6 active, they were having trouble with the line problem, the
- 7 telephone line problem for several days apparently, and so
- 8 delayed me; and then actually this morning I had a little bit of
- 9 time this morning, I talked to whoever answered the phone, and
- 10 at that time I was with the Attorney General Consumer Protection
- 11 Division, someone -- someone told me that from one of the other
- 12 state agencies, but it wasn't the right person either.
- 13 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Okay. So you -- you called the
- 14 state, you called the general state number, and you had people
- 15 trying to figure out where this call should go?
- 16 MR. COWAN: One person I talked to told me, Well, you
- 17 better go to the hearing. So I couldn't talk to anybody. It
- 18 was just too late to do a complaint and so forth. That was just
- 19 this morning.
- 20 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Well, thank you very much for your
- 21 comments. I point out behind you, towards the door, John Cupp
- 22 is the with the Utilities and Transportation Commission,
- 23 consumer protection division, and feel free to talk to him about
- 24 specifics concerns. I understand there are also representatives
- of the company here.

- 1 Thank you. I appreciate your comments very much.
- 2 MR. COWAN: Anybody else on the board, any questions?
- 3 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Well, generally tonight, this is a
- 4 listening session for all of us on the record now. Afterwards,
- 5 if you want to corner somebody, feel free.
- 6 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Okay.
- 7 CHAIRMAN DANNER: But we've got your comments on the
- 8 record and we'll go from there.
- 9 MR. COWAN: Thank you Chairman Danner.
- 10 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you very much.
- 11 Glen Scalf, did I get the name right?
- 12 MR. SCALF: Close. My name is Glen Scalf. Last name
- is spelled S-C-A-L-F.
- 14 CHAIRMAN DANNER: But it's pronounced Scalf.
- 15 MR. SCALF: I'm kind of about the same boat. We live
- 16 on a very limited budget. We live in the Snohomish area off of
- 17 three lakes, and we have a bundled service that includes our
- 18 internet and our telephone. And we had been originally with
- 19 Verizon, and that was purchased by Frontier. And again, I don't
- 20 know the date on it. It was several years ago.
- 21 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Excuse me, so you live in the
- 22 Snohomish area. Do you live in the community of Snohomish?
- MR. SCALF: No, we live outside Snohomish, four or
- 24 five miles. We live off of three lakes area, but it's up by the
- 25 golf course.

- 1 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you.
- 2 MR. SCALF: Anyway, Frontier took the system over
- 3 several years ago, and I do know for a fact I have been in this
- 4 area almost all of my life, and I am quite familiar with it.
- 5 And Verizon has been there for a long time, and they basically
- 6 didn't do a lot of work out there on their telephone lines,
- 7 which I am on DSL so that Affects me.
- 8 I do know on Three Lakes Road there is three trees
- 9 that have been laying on the telephone lines and one of them for
- 10 three years now, and they have not been removed. And I am quite
- 11 certain Frontier must know about it because they park just about
- 12 200 feet down the road from the county maintenance shop and eat
- 13 their lunch there occasionally and they look almost right
- 14 straight at it. So I know they're personally aware of that.
- 15 My biggest problem began in February, and my internet
- 16 service went down and it was down from January 5th to January --
- 17 February 5th to February 21st. After about five days and
- 18 several phone calls, I was told that I had a virus on my
- 19 computer, and I talked to the technician. They said -- and I
- 20 think the figure was \$100. And I might be off, but I think it
- 21 was \$100. And for \$16-a-month after that they would put an anti
- 22 virus program on there.
- I spent two and a half hours with them on the phone
- 24 while they erased a number of things from my computer and put
- 25 their programing in there. My internet came back up. I thanked

- 1 him and hung up the phone and my internet went down.
- I did call back instantly because I had to -- I was
- 3 running a little bit late at the time to -- I think it was one
- 4 of my grandkids' basketball game or something. So anyway, I got
- 5 back home and another two hours on the phone and they had me up
- 6 again, and it ran for about five minutes and went down again.
- 7 Then I was told that they were having equipment
- 8 problems and would likely be without internet service most of
- 9 the time until the end of July. This was just verified on the
- 10 telephone call yesterday when my internet service was down
- 11 again.
- 12 I demanded -- after that first incident, I demanded a
- 13 credit for the time I was down and removal of all their
- 14 programming from my computer. Well, they couldn't get it all
- 15 out of there, so I had to take it to a computer specialist.
- 16 Cost me 150 bucks, and that was laid up for a week.
- 17 Now I am -- I was down again today for a very brief
- 18 period of time. There is no other internet provider in the
- 19 area, none, zero, because I have tried. And if I had the
- 20 opportunity I would switch it in the blink of an eye.
- 21 I can't see where they say that it is a competitive
- 22 area when I can choose from them and them only. My phone
- 23 service, I cannot say I have had any problem with that. I have
- 24 not. I don't understand if the phone works, why the computer
- 25 doesn't work, why the internet doesn't work, because that's what

- 1 it runs through. And until such a time as they can provide
- 2 reliable service or there can be some competition in the market
- 3 that I can -- that's available to me, it's not a competitive
- 4 market and I am blocked up, period. I have no choice. My
- 5 choice would be satellite, and that doesn't -- we can't afford
- 6 it.
- 7 And I am the same situation as the other gentleman,
- 8 we're on -- we live on Social Security, that's it, so we have to
- 9 watch our pennies really close. So, for that reason, I am
- 10 really opposed to any deregulating of Frontier.
- 11 Thank you.
- 12 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you very much.
- 13 Steve Walcker?
- MR. WALCKER: Yes. Good morning -- evening.
- 15 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Mr. Walcker, would you state your
- 16 name and your address and the community --
- MR. WALCKER: Steve Walcker, and last name is spelled
- 18 W-A-L-C-K-E-R. And my address is 13031-27th Place West, and
- 19 that's Everett, Washington. And I am a Frontier consumer, I am
- 20 a Frontier stockholder, and I am a Frontier employee.
- 21 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Alright, proceed.
- 22 MR. WALCKER: I would like permission to ask a few
- 23 questions if that's allowed.
- 24 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Well, normally I would say no for
- 25 on the record. This is where we listen to you.

- 1 MR. WALCKER: Okay.
- 2 CHAIRMAN DANNER: When we're done or you want to get
- 3 somebody outside afterwards, then go ahead.
- 4 MR. WALCKER: Okay, here it comes. Full disclosure
- 5 as well, I did send an email to Mr. Ffitch and Ms. Rulkowski
- 6 earlier on prior when Frontier, you know, informed the employees
- 7 that they were going after pricing flexibility. So I did a lot
- 8 of reading of the Utility Commission website, and generally I
- 9 agree that they do face competition in lots of different ways,
- 10 and as the utility commission I'm aware that they only regulate
- 11 basic home phone service. Nothing to do with internet, nothing
- 12 to do with TV service. So I had some concerns about repair
- 13 standards. And under utility commission, the other document
- 14 that -- excuse me, the other docket, UTC 090842, the Commission
- 15 created 30 conditions upon the transfer of ownership from
- 16 Verizon to Frontier. And one of those things was to have out of
- 17 services on average equal to 24 hours, and so that -- I was
- 18 rather concerned about that as a consumer because if I called in
- 19 to the company and said my phone was broke, you know, you would
- 20 like a, you know, a reasonable response. And a lot out of
- 21 services were at 36 hours as I understood. They previously
- 22 worked 48 to 72 hours. And my understanding was, I believe that
- 23 -- my understanding is that we moved from 40, 24 -- excuse me,
- 24 48 hours for out of services and 72 hours for not out of
- 25 service, to an average of 24 and 36 respectfully.

- 1 So as a consumer, I am concerned about repair
- 2 standards that they not -- in the spirit of minimal regulation,
- 3 I noticed here from this sheet that you have produced for us
- 4 that there was no mention of that, that, you know, the company
- 5 will have the right, I understand, that there has been an
- 6 agreement met, and the company will raise the rates on basic
- 7 home phone service. My concern was also that with minimal
- 8 regulation that the company would have the right to take away
- 9 every Washington State citizen's right for basic home phone
- 10 service. That's kind of the way I read some of the documents,
- 11 so I was concerned about that.
- 12 And I was also concerned about service order
- 13 delivery. You know, whenever a customer calls us, and I am not
- 14 speaking on behalf of the company, I just know as an employee
- 15 that we need to deliver service within five days 90 percent of
- 16 the time. So I had those concerns about, you know, is this
- 17 going to take away my right to have a basic phone service or my
- 18 neighbor. What about when I call in and I have trouble and what
- 19 about the ability to deliver service within a reasonable amount
- 20 of time, within five days? And I noticed that that's not in
- 21 this information sheet, so that's the question that I really
- 22 wanted to ask is, Is that affected?
- 23 Because I generally agree that Frontier faces a lot
- 24 of competition in the marketplace and that it is not a fair
- 25 playing field between a regulated entity and information

- 1 services, such as Comcast. They are not regulated, except at
- 2 the FCC level, and that's lightly, at best.
- 3 And so when we are trying to compete, I witness the
- 4 company trying to compete in the marketplace, and it's very
- 5 difficult, I think, and very difficult for them to respond
- 6 quickly to pricing changes, and that was my understanding of why
- 7 they wanted pricing flexibility.
- 8 Obviously it's going to lead to more revenue for the
- 9 company, but I think that it is important to have fair and
- 10 equitable treatment between competitors, although they are
- 11 classified differently.
- 12 And so the other question I had was, do you foresee
- 13 in the future more deregulation of the telecom industry, because
- 14 there is pushing across the United States and other states, in
- 15 Kentucky and Kansas in particular, AT&T is trying to push to
- 16 deregulate totally. And Verizon has successfully done that as a
- 17 result of the natural disaster called Super Hurricane Sandy.
- 18 Verizon, as you know, is a very large company and they also own
- 19 a cellular -- the cellular networks. What they have done there
- 20 is refused to replace the copper networks that have been
- 21 destroyed and in turn they're putting people on the Voice Link,
- 22 onto their cellular network. So I see them very ruefully, quite
- 23 slyly, get in their way by -- in one fell swoop, not only moving
- 24 people off the regulated industry but into a deregulated
- 25 environment where they can do whatever they want to do with the

- 1 pricing. The New York Public Service Commission is actually
- 2 tackling that currently.
- 3 So I'm aware because of the fact that I live and work
- 4 and I am a 20-year employee, I am a military retiree as well, I
- 5 have been introduced to the telecom industry since 1979, and I
- 6 have seen lots of changes come around. And that's just the
- 7 natural evolution of any industry, I think. And so I was with
- 8 the Telecommunication Reform Act of 1996, that allowed
- 9 competition to rather flourish.
- 10 So those were really what I came to tell you is I
- 11 generally agree that pricing flexibility needs to be given and
- 12 allowed, but it needs -- we need moderation in all things. We
- 13 need safeguards as well. So it's a very delicate balance, I
- 14 think, to try to reach in regards to service order standards and
- 15 delivering service within a reasonable amount of time, and not
- 16 taking away basic phone rights.
- 17 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you. Mr. Ffitch, do you want
- 18 to --
- 19 MR. FFITCH: I just.
- 20 CHAIRMAN DANNER: You want to address these here
- 21 or do you want to deal with them later?
- 22 MR. FFITCH: Mr. Chairman, I was going to indicate to
- 23 folks, as I said, I will be here afterwards and be happy to talk
- 24 with Mr. Walcker, and anyone else who would like, about some of
- 25 the questions.

- 1 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Yeah, that would be great.
- 2 Obviously you can't condense long legal pleadings into a single
- 3 page.
- 4 MR. WALCKER: Sure.
- 5 CHAIRMAN DANNER: But Mr. Ffitch has it all in his
- 6 head, word-for-word.
- 7 MR. WALCKER: Thank you for making yourself
- 8 available.
- 9 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you for coming tonight and
- 10 sharing your thoughts. I appreciate it very much.
- 11 And Carol --
- 12 MS. ELERS: There are two ways of pronouncing it
- 13 correctly. Ehlers is the way they pronounced it during the
- 14 first World War when it was a sin to be a German. And Ehlers is
- 15 the way that I used it when I taught German in high school.
- 16 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Do you have a preference?
- 17 MS. EHLERS: I accept either of those two. There are
- 18 other ways that I don't.
- I am Carol Ehlers. I live at 3998 Wind Crest, that's
- 20 two words, Lane, in -- outside of Anacortes. I live on the west
- 21 side of Fidalgo Island, which physically is a San Juan island
- 22 the way Whidbey Island is, but it is connected with a bridge, so
- 23 a lot of people don't think about it. It is part of Skagit
- 24 County.
- I first came to Skagit County in 1961, and the phone

- 1 systems were semi-competent. Nothing has changed. In some ways
- 2 it's better. There are -- a person can have a single-family
- 3 line, much more frequently now. The phone systems work much
- 4 better in terms of duration and what my predecessor here has
- 5 said. The worst system we have ever had was after Frontier took
- 6 over in March of 2012 when the power went out and I turned the
- 7 computers off -- I am not on Verizon DSL, but I am on the dial
- 8 up, so I use the phone line. I turn the computers off and went
- 9 to call Puget Power, I could manage to tell them the power was
- 10 out. The next time the power went out the end of the month I
- 11 couldn't.
- 12 Now, you talk about competition. Where I am on the
- 13 west side of Fidalgo Island, I have a Verizon cell phone that
- 14 works everywhere else in the world, but doesn't work very well
- 15 there. AT&T doesn't work there. Sprint works on the west side
- 16 of the road, but not on the east. So there is no essential
- 17 competition in the telecom industry for much of Skagit County,
- 18 and that's where the problem lies. Because no phone company, as
- 19 far as I can tell, since my experience in '61, has been able to
- 20 afford to do more than minimum updating of the phone lines in
- 21 the county. It's too big, it's too varied, they're difficult,
- 22 the roads are difficult. It's expensive. And for that reason I
- 23 can understand Frontier's need for more money.
- 24 But John Cupp told me that when Frontier bought,
- 25 somebody required them to pay \$59 million in updating so they

- 1 could do DSL. God knows where the money went. It didn't come
- 2 to Skagit County. So we aren't in the modern age in Skagit
- 3 County.
- 4 If Comcast happens to be in the neighborhood and you
- 5 can afford \$113 to \$140 a month in order to have it, then you
- 6 can have computer access. But Comcast, because it's not
- 7 regulated, has decided to take the battery out of their phone
- 8 component for individuals so that when the power goes out you
- 9 won't be able to call the power company on Comcast with Skype.
- 10 You aren't able to do it with Frontier. I found that you can't
- 11 do it with the Verizon cell phone. My neighbors found you can't
- 12 do it with AT&T. We didn't know about Sprint until more
- 13 recently. Now that's not safe.
- I pay attention to the emergency management process,
- 15 because at the University I was involved in that. They need
- 16 desperately to be able to notify the County if there is a
- 17 30-inch rain coming, and therefore everybody has to get out of
- 18 all the low ground. They can't do it. Because there is no --
- 19 in this modern age, with all of the stuff that should be, they
- 20 can't do it.
- Now, we used to be able to use television, but that
- 22 doesn't work. We get British Columbia beautifully, but we can't
- 23 get Seattle. The radio used to be useful, but in Anacortes I
- 24 can no longer get KOMO when I am driving down the road.
- 25 So the idea of having deregulated communication

- 1 system sounds wonderful in the justice department when they
- 2 decide we want four major telecoms and so there is real
- 3 competition. And that probably works in New York -- well, it
- 4 doesn't work in New York from what I have just heard. It
- 5 probably works some places. But I would like at least one
- 6 that's competent.
- Now, I have a good education, and one of the things I
- 8 have learned is that you need a check and balances. And
- 9 completely unregulated sector in this country, if you read the
- 10 Wall Street Journal, which I do, has led to problem after
- 11 problem after problem. Think of what happened at WorldCom and
- 12 Tyco, when they cheated royally, and everyone wanted to know why
- 13 Verizon and AT&T couldn't do what those two were doing, and then
- 14 they discovered those two were a sham. Now, they convicted them
- 15 for fraud, but it didn't help the people caught in the fraud.
- So, for that reason, I want regulation. I don't want
- 17 it heavy handed, I certainly don't want it ham handed, or the
- 18 sort of thing that says we will get rid of 100 watt bulbs so we
- 19 can drive electric cars in our attempt to deregulate
- 20 electricity, if you see what I am getting to. But we have to
- 21 have a communication system.
- Now, in terms of the internet, we have to have that
- 23 too. And the number of people who are on limited income in at
- 24 least northwest Washington, although the census tells you and
- 25 the data that you -- various governments have, tell them if they

- 1 look, they brush it aside as if to say it isn't important. They
- 2 talk about communicating in my county, there is a big deal about
- 3 communicating land use things with the public. And they're
- 4 putting this on the internet and that on the internet and
- 5 something else on the internet, but you can't get it, or it
- 6 comes sporadically. Or the worst kind of tale is where -- and
- 7 this sounds strange in this time -- but when people are on some
- 8 kind of services, it's kind of hard to figure out if it's
- 9 telephone or just something like Clearwire or what the origin of
- 10 it is because you have never heard of the companies before.
- 11 They cannot tell on the 20th of May whether they have any
- 12 gigabytes left on their data service, which they use partly for
- 13 telephone, for the end of the month. A computer company can't
- 14 tell you to the minute how much time they have? Well, that's a
- 15 game, you see, to have the person run over and they charge an
- 16 extra fee. And that is something to worry about too because
- 17 Frontier advertises weekly in one media or another, comes in the
- 18 newspaper, it comes in the mail, so does Dish and some of the
- 19 others, they advertise about what wonderful service they can
- 20 provide. And I thought I wanted it, but there was a meeting in
- 21 Skagit County, sponsored by the Economic Development
- 22 Association, EDASC, and Angela Rue from the federal government
- 23 broadband committee, they had a meeting at the commissioner's
- 24 office to which no person involved in government at all came
- 25 except the tech dean at the college, who said the majority of

- 1 places in Skagit County, you can't take a dial up course, an
- 2 online course.
- Now, I went to that. Frontier was the only
- 4 professional company who was there. I credit them with that.
- 5 Nice woman sat behind me. She knew what she was talking about.
- 6 I asked her if I could have DSL service with them. She said,
- 7 No, the wiring is inadequate.
- 8 Now, this wiring that's inadequate, GTE told me was
- 9 baling wire from the 1930s. And I suspect that he was being
- 10 quite honest.
- 11 Are you getting the picture of an area where the
- 12 phone company needs help and the public needs help? And I am
- 13 not sure that you folks are the ones who can give it all, but I
- 14 was hoping tonight that I could bring up the question, in an
- 15 appropriate forum, and start a discussion.
- 16 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Again, thank you very much for
- 17 coming tonight and sharing your thoughts. This is not a place
- 18 for a two-way discussion.
- 19 MS. EHLERS: I know that.
- 20 CHAIRMAN DANNER: But certainly we have your comments
- 21 on the record and we will take them under consideration as we
- 22 move forward. Thank you very much.
- MS. EHLERS: Oh, and one other thing: Thank you for
- 24 once for having a hearing to which we can come to without
- 25 three-and-a-half-hour drive through Seattle.

- 1 CHAIRMAN DANNER: You're very welcome.
- 2 Okay, that is all the people who have signed up. Are
- 3 there others who have -- all right.
- 4 So, again, this is a matter that there is a -- a
- 5 settlement before the commission, which they will be hearing in
- 6 Olympia on next Wednesday, and they will be deliberating after
- 7 that to determine whether to reject, approve or modify the
- 8 settlement, and so that is something that will be taken into
- 9 consideration and will issue an order in due course.
- 10 In the meantime, if you have other comments you would
- 11 like to make or if you have friends and neighbors that would
- 12 like to comment, they are -- John, are we still taking written
- 13 comments?
- MR. CUPP: I have not heard.
- 15 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Certainly we will receive any
- 16 written comments that anyone would like to send to us in --
- 17 through the mail, on the email or telephonically.
- 18 John, is that correct? Are we taking telephone
- 19 comments as well.
- MR. CUPP: Yes.
- 21 CHAIRMAN DANNER: So I do appreciate everyone's
- 22 participation here tonight. If -- I see there are company
- 23 representatives here. If you have any questions or anything you
- 24 would like to ask the company that are here, Mr. Ffitch is
- 25 available afterwards as well.

```
0043
              So with that I think we can go off the record and we
 1
    are adjourned.
 2
 3
                        (Concluded at 6:43 p.m.)
 4
 5
 6
 7
 8
 9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
```

0	n	4	4
v	v	_	_

1	CERTIFICATE
2	
3	STATE OF WASHINGTON
4	COUNTY OF SNOHOMISH
5	
6	
7	I, Melonie Rainey, a Certified Shorthand Reporter and
8	Notary Public in and for the State of Washington, do hereby
9	certify that the foregoing transcript is true and accurate to
10	the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.
11	
12	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal
13	this 10th day of June, 2013.
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	MELONIE RAINEY, RPR, CCR
21	
22	
23	
24	My commission expires:
25	SEPTEMBER 2013