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Ms. Carole Washburn
Executive Secretary
Washington Utilities and
Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S. W.
P. O. Box 47250
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

Dear Ms. Washburn:

There has been a lot of publicity over the past few weeks related to certain agreements that Qwest has entered into with competitive local exchange carriers. I am writing to advise you of new policies that Qwest is implementing in this area.

As you know, Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers ("ILECs") routinely enter into agreements of many kinds with Competitive Local Exchange Carriers ("CLECs"). Some of them may take effect immediately as in the normal business world. Others must be filed with and pre-approved by state commissions. Qwest itself has filed over 3,200 agreements with CLECs since the passage of the Telecommunications Act, including both initial agreements and amendments. This large number reflects our efforts to work with individual CLECs to meet their specific business needs. However, questions have been raised regarding a relative handful of our arrangements with CLECs. Some parties allege that under Section 252(a) of the Telecommunications Act such agreements also should have first been filed and approved.

Qwest disputes these allegations and is defending the legal line it drew between those agreements that did, and did not, need to be filed. As you are aware, Qwest also has filed a petition with the FCC asking for guidance on where the filing line is drawn. On May 2, we provided the Commission copies of that petition and the FCC's Notice establishing a pleading cycle.

Meanwhile, however, Qwest is implementing two new policies that will eliminate debate regarding whether Qwest is complying fully with applicable law. First, Qwest will file all contracts, agreements or letters of understanding between Qwest Corporation and CLECs that create obligations to meet the requirements of Section 251(b) or (c) on a going forward basis. We believe that commitment goes well beyond the requirements of Section 252(a). However, we will follow it until we receive a decision from the FCC on the appropriate line drawing in this area. Unless requested by the Commission, Qwest does not intend to file routine day-to-day

paperwork, orders for specific services, or settlements of past disputes that do not otherwise meet the above definition.

Second, Qwest has reviewed and is enlarging its internal procedures for evaluating contractual arrangements with CLECs and making all necessary filings. Qwest is forming a committee of senior managers from the corporate organizations involved in wholesale agreements: wholesale business development, wholesale service delivery, network, legal affairs attorneys, policy and law attorneys, and public policy. This committee will review agreements involving in-region wholesale activities to ensure that the standard described above is applied prior to the issuance of an FCC ruling, and that any later FCC decision also is implemented fully and completely.

Qwest is implementing these policies to eliminate any question about Qwest' compliance with the requirements of Section 252(a) in Washington while Qwest's petition to the FCC is pending. We hope to continue to work with CLECs to meet their individual needs, as we have in the past. This is a practice that we are proud of, and we do not want to see it obscured by controversy over the meaning of Section 252(a), or decisions on line drawing in a small number of situations.

To the extent there are questions or concerns associated with the procedure outlined in this letter, please contact me.

Sincerely,



R. Steven Davis