

November 2, 2006

Re: *In the Matter of Qwest's Petition to be Regulated Under an Alternative Form of Regulation Pursuant to RCW 80.36.135, Docket UT-061625*

TO ALL PARTIES:

A responsibility of each Commissioner is to meet with representatives of diverse interests to discuss matters of interest relating to regulatory and policy issues that may involve the commission. While doing so, it is essential that we avoid discussions about matters before us in adjudications, and that we avoid the impression of ex parte.

In this spirit, I am in this letter disclosing for the record in this docket my recent meeting with Public Counsel Simon ffitch and the Attorney General's Citizen's Advisory Council to the office of Public Counsel.

The meeting, held on October 24, 2006, included my participation in the following items:

- My report on federal legislative activity on telecommunications policy, based on my role as Chair of the Federal Legislative Subcommittee of the NARUC Telecommunications Committee, including
 - Status of the principal telecom legislation, the Stevens bill (HR 5252, as amended) and the Barton bill
 - Description of other federal telecommunications legislative activity, on topics including E911, consumer telephone records and CPNI, emergency communications, and critical infrastructure
- General discussions relating to my 18 months' experience as a Commissioner, including
 - General reflections on my first 18 months of service
 - A general discussion of telecommunications issues that have come to the Commission, or other Olympia venues, including the legislature

- In addition, I participated in other discussions, sharing information I have learned about the following:
 - Telecommunications issues in other states, such as statewide franchising and initiatives for further deregulation
 - Global and national trends in technology issues and the rise of competition among the major technology platforms
 - A White Paper published by NARUC on Federalism and Telecom in July, 2005, stressing a new paradigm in federal-state relationships, and
 - States' roles in consumer protection, CPNI, public safety, and arbitration and mediation of interconnection disputes.

The meeting agenda (which I have attached) then shows time for discussions of matters now the subject of actual or potential adjudications before the Commission, including the Qwest AFOR, the ACLU request for investigation, and other matters. I did not participate in any discussions on such matters; I left at the conclusion of my remarks and recused myself from discussions on any pending matters that arose before I left.

While I do not believe any *ex parte* communications took place, I recognize the spirit of openness that is called for in the Administrative Procedure Act and feel it best to disclose formally my participation in this advisory council briefing.

Sincerely,

Philip B. Jones
Commissioner

cc: The File
All petitioners for intervention as of the date of this letter