**AGENDA**

**UT-131239 USF Rulemaking**

**Workshop**

**July 15, 2013**

1. **Introduction and General Comments**
2. **Rulemaking Process and Schedule**
3. **Open Discussion of Key Provisions – ESS HB 1971 (Part II)**
	1. **Section 203**
		1. **(3)(a) Communications Provider Eligibility:**
			1. **Incumbent carrier,**
			2. **Wireless carrier.**
		2. **(3)(b) Risk of rate instability, service interruptions or cessations absent a distribution to the provider to maintain rates reasonably close to benchmark,**
		3. **(3)(c) Any other requirements established by the Commission pertaining to communications services (including basic telecommunications services).**
		4. **(4)(a) Establishment of local rate benchmark (Commission determines reasonable amount customers should pay for basic residential service).**
		5. **(4)(b) Affirmatively consent to continue to provide communications services.**
		6. **(6) Commission must periodically review the accounts and records of any communications provider receiving distributions to ensure compliance.**
		7. **(7) Commission must establish an advisory board consisting of representatives from different types of communications providers and consumers to advise on rules and policies for operation of the program.**
	2. **Section 204**
		1. **(1)(a) Commission must adopt rules for operation of the fund, eligibility, identification of any reports or data to be filed (including how provider used the funds and infrastructure).**
		2. **(1)(b) operation of the universal services account.**
		3. **(1)(c) establishment of a benchmark.**
		4. **(1)(d) Readoption, repeal or changes to RCW 80.36.610 and 80.36.620.**
	3. **Section 205**
		1. **Commission may impose penalties for failure to make or delays in reporting and Commission may recover amounts determined to have been improperly distributed under Section 203.**
	4. **Section 206**
		1. **Commission may delegate authority to the commission secretary or other staff to resolve disputes and make other administrative decisions and supervision of the program.**
	5. **Section 207**
		1. **Rules must be adopted prior to July 1, 2014**
		2. **Commission may initiate efforts prior to July 1, 2014 to implement act in timely manner.**
	6. **Section 211**
		1. **Universal communications services program terminates on June 30, 2019.**
	7. **Section 212**
		1. **Commission must report to legislature:**
			1. **Whether funding levels have been adequate.**
			2. **Future impacts on small telecommunications companies of eliminating funding.**
			3. **Impacts on customer rates from current funding and future impact.**
			4. **Impacts on line and service delivery investments when funding is terminated.**