



August 12, 2015

RE: "In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45."

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

On behalf of the nearly 900 community-based rural communications providers that are members of NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association, I respectfully submit this formal nomination of Mr. Geoffrey A. Feiss, General Manager of the Montana Telecommunications Association, to serve an additional term as a representative on the Board of Directors of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) for incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs) (other than Bell Operating Companies) with annual reporting revenues of \$40 million or less.

There is no question regarding the importance of our nation's federal universal service policy and the Universal Service Fund (USF) that USAC and its board of directors are responsible for administering. The individuals appointed to serve as USAC directors are tasked in particular with ensuring USF resources are appropriately administered to help fulfill our national universal service objectives. Mr. Feiss has demonstrated throughout his career as well as his prior service on the USAC Board that he is fully committed to and capable of fulfilling these responsibilities. He has been an exemplary member of the USAC board, approaching his responsibilities with great diligence and care, capably fulfilling the fiduciary aspects of his board position.

Considering the communications challenges that remain on America's horizon, it is imperative that the USAC board be comprised of directors that are familiar with the communications industry and the tools it relies upon to achieve federal universal service goals. Mr. Feiss has this experience and the broad background needed to ensure the successful administration of this important resource in a manner consistent with the public interest. We therefore urge his reappointment for another term on the USAC board.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shirley Bloomfield". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shirley Bloomfield
Chief Executive Officer

Curriculum Vitae

Over 25 years of experience in the telecommunications industry, with 17 years as General Manager (CEO) of the Montana Telecommunications Association, which represents commercial and cooperative telecommunications providers offering advanced communications services throughout Montana.

Experience

1998 – Present. General Manager. Montana Telecommunications Association. Significant accomplishments in strategic planning and leadership; public policy advocacy at federal, state & local levels; regulatory and market analysis and consultancy; communications & PR, financial administration, *inter alia*.

- 1994 – 1998. Director, Congressional Relations. USTelecom.
- 1988 – 1993. Director, External Affairs. Michigan Bell Telephone Company.
- 1987 – 1988. Director, Community Development. Michigan Bell.
- 1984 – 1987. Manager, Legislative Affairs. American Electronics Association.
- 1979 – 1984. Legislative Assistant. Honorable Bob Davis (R-MI).
- 1977 – 1978. Legislative Assistant. Honorable Charles Whalen (R-OH).
1977. Congressional Intern. Honorable Charles Whalen (R-OH).

Boards, Appointments, Committees

- Director, Universal Service Administrative Company (“USAC”). By appointment of FCC Chairman. 2008 – present.
- Statewide Interoperability Governance Board (SIGB). By appointment of Montana Governor. 2013 – present.
- NTCA Government Affairs Committee. 2007 – present.
- Treasurer, Helena Civic TV/TV Montana. 2006 – present.
- Director, Montana Cooperative Development Center. 2004 – present.
- President, Montana Society of Association Executives. 2010 – present.
- Chairman, National Council of State Telecommunications Executives. 2010.
- Commentator. Montana Public Radio. 2004 – present.
- Trustee, Helena Public Schools. Elected 2000 – 2003.
- Governor’s School Funding Task Force. Governor appointed: 2001 – 2002.
- E-911 Executive Council. Governor appointment: 1998 – 2004.
- Statewide Interoperability Executive Council. Governor appointment: 1998 – 2004.

Education

- University of Maine. Orono, Maine. International Relations. 1977.
- Certified Association Executive.
- University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, MI. Executive Finance. 1986.