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# State of Utah

## Department of Commerce

### Committee of Consumer Services

FRANCINE A. GIANI  
*Executive Director, Commerce*

MICHELE BECK  
*Director, Committee of Consumer Services*

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Kelly Casaday  
Robert McMullin  
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**DATE:** December 23, 2008

**TO:** PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**FROM:** COMMITTEE OF CONSUMER SERVICES  
Michele Beck, Director  
Eric Orton, Utility Analyst

**CC:** Stan Stoll, Manti Telephone Company  
Kira Slawson, Manti Telephone Company  
Michael Ginsberg, Division of Public Utilities  
Bill Duncan, Division of Public Utilities

**Re:** In the Matter of the Increase of Rates and Charges and Increase in USF Eligibility for Manti Telephone Company.  
Docket No: 08-046-01.

#### Position Statement:

The Committee concurs that the proposed stipulation between the Division and the Company represents a fair resolution of this difficult situation and the often conflicting interests of each party. Based upon our review of the overall process and resulting analysis and workpapers, the Committee is confident that the residential and small business rate-payers interests are sufficiently represented and recommends that the Commission accept the proposed stipulation as a just and reasonable outcome of the current filing.

#### Background and Summary:

The Committee staff became involved in the Manti case to ensure that the interests of the residential and small commercial customers were protected. The Committee represents both the contributors and the recipients of USF funds. Therefore, in addition to evaluating the process and stipulation in the context of ensuring just and reasonable rates for the small consumers of Manti Telephone Company, the

Committee also had particular interest in the effect the Company's petition has on State Universal Service Funds. The true-up provision in the proposed stipulation addresses our concerns and provides surety for both those funding the USF and those receiving USF assistance.

The Committee did not undertake an independent investigation, but rather received regular updates on the case work progress from the Division, evaluated the appropriate analysis and workpapers, and are satisfied that the process and outcome of the resultant stipulation will be the best way to clarify the accounting details to regulators which will establish the path for ensuring ongoing fair and equitable rates for the residential and business customers of Manti in the future.