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## **RCA Calls for Curbing Rampant Special Access Abuses**

**Washington, DC** – In reply comments filed today addressing questions raised in the *Special Access Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, the Rural Cellular Association (RCA) called on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to act decisively to curb special access marketing abuses thoroughly documented in the current FCC record. As rural and regional mobile wireless carriers rely extensively on special access arrangements to provide services, including broadband services, to their customers, it is vital that the FCC move quickly to ensure a competitive environment that fosters the continued expansion of wireless and broadband services for all consumers.

Left unchecked, large non-rural incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs) have been able to abuse their market power, highlighted by excessive rates of return, supra-competitive charges for special access services, and unjust and unreasonable terms and conditions in special access contracts that are aimed at preventing competitive entry. The current regime of deregulation discourages competition and is harmful to consumers. RCA commends the FCC for initiating further analysis of the special access markets and urges swift action to ensure competition in the wireless marketplace.

In a statement accompanying the reply comments, RCA's CEO Steven K. Berry said, "Under the current regulatory framework, larger carriers have been permitted to impose anti-competitive conditions on special access arrangements that seriously harm consumers in rural and regional areas. We support the FCC taking a closer look at the special access market and hope that steps are soon taken to ensure a competitive marketplace that promotes further wireless growth and broadband access."

### **About RCA**

RCA is the nation's leading association for wireless providers serving rural areas of the United States. The licensed service area of RCA's nearly 100 members covers more than 80 percent of the nation.

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To view RCA's full reply comments, please click [HERE](#).