



July 1, 2015

Colleagues and Friends,

The Board of Directors of the Montana Independent Telecommunications Systems, LLC (MITS) has made the difficult decision to dissolve our Association as of August 31, 2015.

The Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) release of the Universal Service Fund and Intercarrier Compensation Reform Report and Order in 2011 has brought significant change and uncertainty in the regulatory landscape. These regulatory and policy changes mandated by the Federal Communications Commission directly and significantly impact rural telecom providers especially those serving rural and remote areas.

The FCC's increased intrusion into areas traditionally falling under state jurisdiction has also led to a declining need for regulatory advocacy before state commissions including the MT Public Service Commission.

These changes, coupled with the limited membership in MITS, have made it even more difficult for MITS to fulfill its mission in a cost effective manner.

MITS has fostered strong relationships among industry groups, broadband stakeholders, and government. The MITS member companies will continue to support these successful partnerships with the same integrity and commitment as that demonstrated by MITS.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Stuker,
President of the Board of Directors
MT Independent Telecommunications Systems LLC (MITS)

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