EX PARTE

Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Rules and Regulations Implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991, CG Docket No. 02-278

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On November 5, 2015, Gregory Knight, Senior Vice President and Chief Customer Officer at CenterPoint Energy, Inc. (“CenterPoint”), Stephanie Bundage, Senior Counsel at CenterPoint, Aryeh Fishman of Edison Electric Institute (“EEI”), Scott Blake Harris of Harris, Wiltshire & Grannis, LLP and I met with Amy Bender of Commissioner O’Rielly’s office. On November 6, 2015, the same individuals met with Travis Litman and Jennifer Thompson of Commissioner Rosenworcel’s office and Nicholas Degani of Commissioner Pai’s office.

We discussed EEI’s pending Petition for Expedited Declaratory Ruling filed in this docket on February 12, 2015, and modified by our ex parte letter of June 9, 2015. In particular, we discussed the unique position of EEI’s members as highly regulated public utilities whose industry defines the phrase “critical infrastructure.” We explained that there is little, if anything, more important to the health and welfare of the public than the safe, consistent, and efficient provision of electric power.

We described how the rise of technology, such as the use of smart grid and smart meters, has enabled utility providers to have real time information about their services. The record reflects that consumers want to hear from their utilities and, because of the nature of the service, all of the communications—or lack of communications—from utility providers have an impact on health and safety. For example, CenterPoint mentioned an instance where a customer reached out to thank the utility for letting her know that her power was still out because her young son was headed home from school to an empty house and she was able to divert him to a neighbor’s home.

1 Petition for Expedited Declaratory Ruling of Edison Electric Institute and American Gas Association, CG Docket No. 02-278 (filed Feb. 12, 2015); Letter from Scott Blake Harris, Counsel, EEI to Marlene Dortch, Secretary, FCC, CG Docket No. 02-278 (filed June 9, 2015).
Pursuant to the FCC’s rules, I have filed a copy of this notice electronically in the above-noted proceedings. If you require any additional information please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer P. Bagg
Counsel to the Edison Electric Institute.

cc: meeting participants