

IURC News Release

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission
302 West Washington Street, Room E306
Indianapolis Indiana 46204

317.232.2297 office
317.233.1982 fax
www.in.gov/iurc

For Immediate Release
November 7, 2005

Contact: Mary Beth Fisher

Landis Nominated to Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commissioner Larry S. Landis has been nominated to the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service (Joint Board) by Iowa Utilities Board Commissioner Diane Munns, President of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC).

President Munns said: "I am delighted to forward the nomination of Commissioner Landis for this post. He has an outstanding record of public service. I am confident that he can do an excellent job of integrating varying State perspectives into the work of this critically important Federal-State Joint Board."

The board was established in March of 1996, shortly after the enactment of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and makes recommendations for action to the Federal Communications Commission on such complex issues as maintaining affordable phone service in high cost rural areas of the U.S., Internet connectivity for schools and libraries, rural telemedicine, as well as low income telephone assistance.

From January to September 2005, Hoosier telephone carriers received nearly \$42 million for high cost support from the federal Universal Service Fund. Indiana Schools and Libraries have nearly \$14.5 million in funding commitments and funding commitment. The state received nearly \$178 thousand for Rural Health in 2004. The program is funded by a national levy on telecommunications services.

Landis, a Republican, was appointed to the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission on December 17, 2002 by the late Governor Frank O'Bannon and was reappointed in 2004, by former Governor Joe Kernan. Commissioner Landis' term expires January 2008.

Landis founded and was the former president of Marketrends Inc., a marketing and communications firm, and co-founder and managing partner of American Grassroots LLC, a mass telecommunications notification and grassroots communications firm.

Before establishing his own companies, Landis spent 15 years in marketing and advertising in Indianapolis advertising agencies; he also served four years as Vice President of Corporate Advertising for American Fletcher National Bank (now Bank One Indiana). He has experience in banking and financial services, and utilities. Much of his non-technical experience has been with regulated industries. Landis is a former assistant to former Indianapolis Mayor Richard G. Lugar; and served as press secretary for former Governor Otis Bowen's first gubernatorial campaign in 1972.

The Joint-Board is comprised of three FCC Commissioners, four state commissioners from around the country and one state consumer advocate. The board is supported by staff members appointed from the FCC and state commissions.

###