



October 19, 2018

***Ex Parte Notice***

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**RE: *Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90; ETC Annual Reports and Certifications, WC Docket No. 14-58; Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for Local Exchange Carriers, WC Docket No. 07-135; Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime, CC Docket No. 01-92***

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Thursday, October 18, 2018, Shirley Bloomfield, Chief Executive Officer of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association (“NTCA”), together with the undersigned, met with Commissioner Michael O’Rielly and his wireline advisor, Arielle Roth.

In the meeting, we discussed how to address ongoing concerns with respect to the sufficiency and predictability of federal high-cost universal service fund (“USF”) support. NTCA noted the overwhelming support from stakeholders in the record of the above-referenced proceedings and among policymakers generally for longer-term funding to promote universal service in rural areas. Consistent with a letter recently submitted by NTCA and other rural advocates, we encouraged the Federal Communications Commission (the “Commission”) to adopt and implement a straightforward set of reforms that will provide support that is both sufficient and predictable for each of the already-existing USF mechanisms and continue to promote effective and responsible use of USF resources going forward. *See Ex Parte* Letter from Michael R. Romano, Sr. Vice President, NTCA, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Commission, WC Docket No. 10-90, *et al.* (filed Oct. 1, 2018). We further encouraged action by the Commission with respect to elimination of the outdated rate floor policy.

Thank you for your attention to this correspondence. Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the rules of the Commission, a copy of this letter is being filed via ECFS.

Sincerely,

/s/ Michael R. Romano

Michael R. Romano  
Senior Vice President –  
Industry Affairs & Business Development

cc: Commissioner Michael O’Rielly  
Arielle Roth