



October 25, 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 Wednesday, October 24, 2018, Denny Law, Chief Executive Officer of Golden West Telecommunications, together with the undersigned on behalf of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association (“NTCA”), met separately with: (1) Jamie Susskind, chief of staff to Commissioner Brendan Carr; (2) Travis Litman, chief of staff and senior legal advisor to Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel; (3) Nicholas Degani, senior counsel to Chairman Ajit Pai, and Preston Wise, the chairman’s special counsel; (4) Alexander Minard, Sue McNeil, Suzanne Yelen, and Ted Burmeister from the Wireline Competition Bureau; and (5) Arielle Roth, wireline legal advisor to Commissioner Michael O’Rielly.

In each 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 previously 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 discussed the need to ensure the sustainability of any budgets adopted in order to provide proper incentives (and corresponding obligations) to invest in long-term broadband assets and promote advancement of broadband for the benefit of rural consumers.

Marlene H. Dortch

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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: Nicholas Degani
Preston Wise
Arielle Roth
Travis Litman
Jamie Susskind
Alexander Minard
Sue McNeil
Suzanne Yelen
Ted Burmeister