



October 18, 2019

VIA ECFS

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 17, 2019, Troy Schilling of West River Telecommunications Cooperative (“WRT”), David Crothers of the Broadband Association of North Dakota, Dan Caldwell of Consortia Consulting, and the undersigned on behalf of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association, held separate meetings with: (1) Preston Wise, rural broadband advisor in the office of Chairman Ajit Pai; and (2) Alexander Minard, Suzanne Yelen, and Brian Cruikshank of the Wireline Competition Bureau.

In the meetings, we expressed support for a grant of the waiver petition filed by WRT on October 4, 2019, in the above-referenced proceedings based upon good cause and consideration of the public interest. Specifically, we explained how WRT had indicated its intent to migrate to model-based support, how the receipt of such support would enable WRT to provide consumers with access to robust and affordable voice and broadband services, how a grant of relief would have no effect on any other recipients of support, and how a grant of the petition would be consistent with the goals of the Federal Communications Commission (the “Commission”) with respect to the administration and distribution of universal service fund support.

Marlene H. Dortch

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Thank you for your attention to this correspondence. Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, 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

NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association

cc: Preston Wise
Alexander Minard
Suzanne Yelen
Brian Cruikshank