



December 10, 2019

**VIA ECFS**

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

**RE: *Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, WC Docket No. 19-126***

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Monday, December 9, 2019, Shirley Bloomfield, Chief Executive Officer of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association (“NTCA”), and the undersigned met with Commissioner Geoffrey Starks and his legal advisor, Austin Bonner, to discuss matters in the above-referenced proceeding.

Specifically, we discussed: (1) the need to recognize the value of better service capabilities and symmetrical services in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (“RDOF”) auction; and (2) the importance of promoting greater accountability and focus on consumers’ experiences both prior to bids (in the form of improved, but still reasonable, technical vetting of would-be bidders’ plans) and following awards (in the form of reasonable subscribership performance metrics). NTCA’s advocacy on these points was consistent with prior filings. *See* Comments of NTCA, WC Docket No. 19-126 (filed Sept. 20, 2019), at 4-5, 7-13, and 14-16; *Ex Parte* Letter from Michael R. Romano, Sr. Vice President, NTCA, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission (the “Commission”), WC Docket No. 19-126 (filed Dec. 4, 2019).

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: Commissioner Geoffrey Starks  
Austin Bonner