



September 14, 2022

Ex Parte Notice

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, NE
Washington, DC 20554

RE: *Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90; ETC Annual Reports and Certifications, WC Docket No. 14-58; Telecommunications Carriers Eligible to Receive Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 09-197; Connect America Fund – Alaska Plan, WC Docket No. 16-271; Expanding Broadband Service Through the A-CAM Program, RM-11868*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Tuesday, September 13, 2022, the undersigned and Brian Ford on behalf of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association (“NTCA”) spoke with Michael Janson, Eric Ralph, and Geoff Waldau from the Office of Economics and Analytics and Suzanne Yelen, Ted Burmeister, Joseph Sorresso, and Stephen Wang from the Wireline Competition Bureau regarding matters in the above-referenced proceedings.

Specifically, NTCA explained how the record in these dockets, which includes submissions from a wide range of stakeholders as well as the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, supports moving forward with reform of the Alternative Connect America Model (“A-CAM”) and Connect America Fund-Broadband Loop Support (“CAF-BLS”) mechanisms. NTCA further noted how the proposals for A-CAM and CAF-BLS reform build efficiently upon proven mechanisms already in place, rather than requiring the creation of new programs and awards. We highlighted how these proposals would result in substantially improved broadband services for millions of rural Americans at levels at least equal to, if not in excess of, those anticipated under grant programs – which would, in turn, help these grant programs focus their own funding efforts on other areas in need. NTCA also observed how these critical universal service mechanisms further aid in *keeping* areas served and rates for broadband more affordable.

We emphasized the importance of timely action on reform, both for purposes of effective coordination with other programs and because of the need to address budget and service level commitment issues in the CAF-BLS program in coming months by operation of existing program rules. To this end, NTCA committed to addressing specific questions from Federal Communications Commission (the “Commission”) staff regarding reform mechanics in the near future, recognizing the ultimate objective of ensuring that every American will get served and stay served through the coordinated efforts of various federal and state initiatives.

Marlene H. Dortch
September 14, 2022
Page 2 of 2

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 Romano

Michael Romano

Executive Vice President

cc: Michael Janson
Eric Ralph
Geoff Waldau
Suzanne Yelen
Ted Burmeister
Joseph Sorresso
Stephen Wang