



January 12, 2023

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, January 10, 2023, the undersigned on behalf of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association (“NTCA”) spoke with Ramesh Nagarajan from the office of Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel regarding matters in the above-referenced proceedings.

In our meeting, I urged prompt adoption of the proposals as put forth by NTCA and further detailed over the past six months for updates to the Alternative Connect America Model and the Connect America Fund-Broadband Loop Support (“CAF-BLS”) mechanism. *See* Comments of NTCA, WC Docket No. 10-90, *et al.* (filed July 18, 2022); Reply Comments of NTCA, WC Docket No. 10-90, *et al.* (filed Aug. 1, 2022); *Ex Parte* Letters from Michael R. Romano, Executive Vice President, NTCA, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission (the “Commission”), WC Docket No. 10-90, *et al.* (filed Oct. 14, 2022 and Dec. 5, 2022). I highlighted the various refinements to improve these proposals over time, and how the proposals in their current form represent an effective and efficient use of universal service resources that would leverage existing networks to deliver even-higher-speed broadband to broader rural geographies as compared to many grant programs that permit self-selection of proposed serving areas. I also emphasized the importance of timely adoption of such reforms so that full account of them can be taken both as grant programs are implemented and for purposes of future universal service planning, including the need to address rapidly approaching CAF-BLS budget control and deployment deadlines. Finally, I noted the strong bipartisan, bicameral support expressed recently by several dozen members of Congress for moving forward with updates such as those recommended by NTCA and other stakeholders.

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 Romano

Michael Romano

Executive Vice President

cc: Ramesh Nagarajan