



February 9, 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 Wednesday, February 8, 2023, Shirley Bloomfield, on behalf of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association (“NTCA”), spoke with Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel and Priscilla Delgado Argeris and Elizabeth Cuttner from the chairwoman’s office regarding matters in the above-referenced proceedings. The undersigned also spoke with Ms. Cuttner in a separate telephone conversation the same day regarding these matters.

In these discussions, NTCA expressed concerns about a recurrence of the budget control mechanism (“BCM”) that, if implemented, would result in substantial cuts in Connect America Fund–Broadband Loop Support (“CAF-BLS”) and High-Cost Loop Support (“HCLS”) for several hundred small rural providers starting as of July 1. Such an outcome would put at risk the viability of existing high-capacity networks and undermine the ability to offer quality services on an ongoing basis at more affordable rates to consumers across rural America. For the compelling reasons that the Federal Communications Commission (the “Commission”) has thankfully waived the effects of the BCM in the past two years, NTCA urged the Commission to address such concerns again in the next few months – and specifically recommended doing so by acting upon the already-pending proposals for updates to both the Alternative Connect America Model and the CAF-BLS and HCLS mechanisms. *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, Commission, WC Docket No. 10-90, *et al.* (filed Oct. 14, 2022 and Dec. 5, 2022).

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: Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel  
Priscilla Delgado Argeris  
Elizabeth Cuttner