



May 17, 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, May 16, 2023, the undersigned on behalf of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association (“NTCA”) held separate conversations with: (1) Danielle Thumann from the office of Commissioner Brendan Carr; (2) Justin Faulb from the office of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks; and (3) Marco Peraza from the office of Commissioner Nathan Simington regarding matters in the above-referenced proceedings.

Consistent with recent advocacy, in each of these conversations, I urged the Federal Communications Commission (the “Commission”) to provide near-term relief from the budget control mechanism (“BCM”) for the Connect America Fund Broadband Loop Support (“CAF-BLS”) and High-Cost Loop Support (“HCLS”) mechanisms, to recalibrate the BCM at the current level of demand, to recalculate the existing formulas for service level commitments under CAF-BLS at 100/20 Mbps, and to provide a voluntary option for more stable CAF-BLS and HCLS support in exchange for a study area-wide commitment to deliver at least 100/20 Mbps. *See, e.g., Ex Parte Letter from Michael R. Romano, Executive Vice President, NTCA, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Commission, WC Docket No. 10-90, et al. (filed May 15, 2023).*

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: Danielle Thumann
Justin Faulb
Marco Peraza