



June 15, 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, June 13, 2023, the undersigned on behalf of NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association (“NTCA”) spoke with Suzanne Yelen from the Wireline Competition Bureau regarding matters in the above-referenced proceedings.

During the conversation, NTCA expressed support for targeting funds to enable network deployment in high-cost unserved areas, but urged the Federal Communications Commission (the “Commission”) as well to strike a balance in achieving sustainability and affordability as part of its comprehensive mission of universal service. In particular, with respect to the Alternative Connect America Cost Model, NTCA emphasized the importance of: (1) providing sufficient ongoing support in those areas where providers are currently delivering broadband services of 100/20 Mbps or better and often have outstanding loan balances to repay for the underlying networks; and (2) taking realistic account of asserted competitive coverage and disaggregating support in ways that will not undermine the mission of universal service. With respect to the Connect America Fund-Broadband Loop Support and High-Cost Loop Support mechanisms, consistent with recent advocacy, NTCA reiterated the importance of structuring any reforms in a manner that will not inflict increased budget cuts on those providers that do not elect to receive fixed support. *See 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 26, 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: Suzanne Yelen