



April 25, 2025

***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 Thursday, April 24, 2025, the undersigned on behalf of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association (“NTCA”) spoke with AJ Burton, Associate Chief of the Wireline Competition Bureau, regarding matters in the above-referenced proceedings.

Specifically, consistent with prior advocacy, NTCA highlighted the need for a granular data-driven assessment of unsubsidized competition in determining where universal service support may or may not be needed. *See* Petition for Reconsideration and/or Clarification of NTCA, WC Docket No. 10-90, *et al.* (filed Sept. 15, 2023), at 3-13; *see also* *Connect America Fund, et al.*, WC Docket No. 10-90, *et al.*, Order on Reconsideration (WCB Apr. 4, 2025), at ¶¶ 19-22. NTCA also discussed the importance of predictable and sufficient ongoing support in fulfilling the statutory mandate that services in rural America are reasonably comparable in price and quality to those available in urban areas. *See* *Connect America Fund, et al.*, WC Docket No. 10-90, *et al.*, Report and Order, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, and Notice of Inquiry, 38 FCC Rcd 7040, 7106-07 (2023), at ¶¶ 159-160.

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: AJ Burton