



January 22, 2016

Ex Parte Notice

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: *Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Wednesday, January 20, 2016, the undersigned, on behalf of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association (“NTCA”), met with Commissioner Mignon Clyburn; her legal advisor, Rebekah Goodheart; Commissioner Michael O’Rielly; his chief of staff, Robin Colwell; Stephanie Weiner, legal advisor to Chairman Tom Wheeler; and Matthew DelNero and Carol Matthey of the Wireline Competition Bureau. Genevieve Morelli of ITTA-The Voice of Mid-Sized Communications Companies and Lynn Follansbee of USTelecom were also present in the meeting.

During the meeting, I stated NTCA’s support for a simple and straightforward means of updating existing universal service mechanisms to enable support of standalone broadband services specifically. In particular, I expressed NTCA’s support in the first instance for the establishment of such a mechanism that could work separate from, but alongside, existing mechanisms to support standalone broadband. I further indicated NTCA’s willingness and eagerness, however, to discuss other measures – such as modifications to the existing mechanisms – that could be adopted to achieve a similar result.

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 R. Romano
Michael R. Romano
Senior Vice President – Policy

cc: Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael O’Rielly
Robin Colwell
Rebekah Goodheart
Stephanie Weiner
Matthew DelNero
Carol Matthey