



January 27, 2015

***Ex Parte Notice***

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

**RE: *Protecting and Promoting the Open Internet, GN Docket No. 14-28; Universal Service Contribution Methodology, WC Docket No. 06-122; Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45; Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90***

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Friday, January 23, 2015, the undersigned, on behalf of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association (“NTCA”), met with Daniel Alvarez, legal advisor to Chairman Tom Wheeler, to discuss issues presented in the above-referenced proceedings.

With respect to Open Internet deliberations, potential forbearance, and the potential effects thereof upon universal service initiatives currently underway before the Federal Communications Commission (the “Commission”) and by the Federal-State Joint Board, I raised points consistent with recent NTCA advocacy. *See, e.g., Ex Parte* Letter from Michael R. Romano, Senior Vice President-Policy, NTCA, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Commission, GN Docket No. 14-28 and WC Docket No. 06-122 (filed Jan. 8, 2015). With respect to high-cost universal service program issues more specifically, NTCA urged the Commission to move forward not only with respect to careful consideration of a voluntary model for those small rural carriers who might seek to avail themselves of such an option, but also to redouble efforts on much-needed updates to the “baseline” foundational programs that enable universal service in areas served by all such carriers. *See Ex Parte* Letter from Michael R. Romano, Senior Vice President-Policy, NTCA, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Commission, WC Docket No. 10-90, *et al.* (filed Oct. 31, 2014).

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: Daniel Alvarez