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 Monday, January 26, 2015, Shirley Bloomfield, Chief Executive Officer of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association ("NTCA"), spoke with Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel regarding matters 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, Ms. Bloomfield 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: Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel

NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association
4121 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1000, Arlington, Virginia 20003
(703) 351-2000 (Tel) ● (703) 351-2001 (Fax)