



February 20, 2014

***Ex Parte Notice***

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

**Re: *Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90; High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337; AT&T Petition to Launch a Proceeding Concerning the TDM-to-IP Transition; Petition of the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association for a Rulemaking to Promote and Sustain the Ongoing TDM-to-IP Evolution, GN Docket No. 12-353; Technology Transitions Policy Task Force, GN Docket No. 13-5***

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Tuesday, February 18, 2014, the undersigned and Joshua Seidemann, on behalf of NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association (“NTCA”), Richard Askoff, Jeff Dupree, and Robert Deegan of the National Exchange Carrier Association, and Derrick Owens and Gerard Duffy on behalf of WTA-Advocates for Rural Broadband (collectively, the “Rural Associations”) met with Jonathan Sallet, Stephanie Weiner, and Linda Oliver of the Office of General Counsel, Jonathan Chambers of the Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Analysis, and Carol Matthey and Matthew Del Nero of the Wireline Competition Bureau. Messrs. Askoff, Dupree, Deegan, Seidemann, and Owens participated via teleconference.

During the meeting, we discussed the legal authority underpinning the proposal submitted by the Rural Associations to update current universal service funding mechanisms to permit consumer choice in the procurement of quality voice or broadband services from carriers on supported networks. The points raised were consistent with the Rural Associations’ prior advocacy in these proceedings. *See, e.g.*, Comments of NTCA, *et al.*, WC Docket No. 10-90 (filed June 17, 2013), at 3-10; *Ex Parte* Letter from Michael R. Romano, Sr. Vice President-NTCA, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission (the “Commission”), WC Docket No. 10-90, *et al.* (filed Apr. 1, 2013), at 2-3.

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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: Jonathan Sallet  
Stephanie Weiner  
Linda Oliver  
Jonathan Chambers  
Carol Matthey  
Matthew Del Nero