



March 22, 2017

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 Monday, March 20, 2017, Shirley Bloomfield, Chief Executive Officer of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association (“NTCA”) and the undersigned met separately with: (1) Commissioner Michael O’Rielly and his legal advisor, Amy Bender; and (2) Nicholas Degani and Jay Schwarz from the office of Chairman Ajit Pai.

In both meetings, consistent with prior advocacy, we discussed key universal service priorities for early 2017, including the negative impacts of continuing universal service fund (“USF”) budget shortfalls on the availability and affordability of broadband for consumers and businesses in rural America, the chilling impact on broadband investment of uncertainty arising out of the new capital investment allowance, and the adverse implications for rural consumers associated with escalating local voice rates pursuant to the rate floor policy. *See 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 (filed Feb. 3, 2017).

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 –
Industry Affairs & Business Development

cc: Commissioner Michael O’Rielly
Amy Bender
Nicholas Degani
Jay Schwarz