



July 21, 2014

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; 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 NTCA 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 Thursday, July 17, 2014, the undersigned, on behalf of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association (“NTCA”), met with Daniel Alvarez, Legal Advisor to Chairman Tom Wheeler, to discuss matters in the above-referenced proceedings. Specifically, we discussed the need for updates to universal service mechanisms so that consumers in high-cost areas served by rural rate-of-return-regulated local exchange carriers can obtain affordable access to sustainable broadband. NTCA expressed appreciation for the recent inquiry by the Federal Communications Commission (the “Commission”) into how to structure such a mechanism, and expressed the association’s strong desire to work diligently with policymakers on the development and implementation of such updates building upon the last several years of deliberation and analysis. NTCA urged the Commission to ensure that any new rules adopted are simple and straightforward, in order to: (1) avoid introducing additional complexity as a result of reforms; (2) minimize the potential for disruption or uncertainty during any transition to new support mechanisms; and (3) ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of any new rules.

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