



October 11, 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 Tuesday, October 10, 2017, the undersigned, on behalf of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association (“NTCA”), met with Amy Bender, wireline legal advisor to Commissioner Michael O’Rielly, to discuss matters in the above-referenced proceeding.

Consistent with prior advocacy, NTCA discussed the need to address outstanding issues teed up for reconsideration or further action in connection with high-cost universal service fund (“USF”) reforms, including a recommended, readily available path toward helping to mitigate the pervasive insufficiency of USF support, greater prospective confirmation as to the eligibility of certain expenses for cost recovery, and action on other items on a previously identified “punchlist” of outstanding issues. *See Ex Parte* Letters 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; May 3, 2017; May 9, 2017; Aug. 15, 2017). NTCA also raised the need for all stakeholders to obtain greater visibility and firm assurance that USF resources will be both sufficient and dedicated to carry out their intended purposes in connection with any potential changes in the administration and custody of those funds, and asserted that nothing in particular in connection with any change in the administration of USF resources must undermine progress that still needs to be made to address an already underfunded high-cost USF program.

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: Amy Bender