



October 15, 2015

***Ex Parte Notice***

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: *Connect America Fund, Docket No. 10-90***

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On October 14, 2015, Denny Law, CEO and General Manager of Golden West Communications, and the undersigned met on behalf of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association with: Stephanie Weiner of Chairman Wheeler’s office and Carol Matthey of the Wireline Competition Bureau (WCB); Travis Litman of Commissioner Rosenworcel’s office; Nicholas Degani of Commissioner Pai’s office; and Amy Bender and Rebekah Goodheart of Commissioner O’Rieley’s and Commissioner Clyburn’s offices, respectively.

NTCA described its on-going work with the WCB to identify, develop and understand all relevant components of the so-called “bifurcated approach,” particularly those whose operation will be critical to the evaluation of the potential operational impacts of the proposal on providers. Toward this end, NTCA referred to prior meetings with WCB Staff and the associated *ex parte* filings (*see, Notices of Ex Parte* of ITTA, NTCA, USTelecom, and WTA, Docket No. 10-90, filed September 25, 2015, and October 2, 2015). NTCA explained that the ability to assess potential impacts and finalize positions upon any potential reforms relies upon a full understanding of the proposals and their proposed implementation.

In response to inquiries regarding how it might share information regarding potential universal service reforms, NTCA explained that dissemination of information to NTCA members includes weekly e-mail summaries of regulatory policy activity and links to filed documents that are distributed to all members; bi-weekly calls with industry consultants and other advisors who serve NTCA members; and conference calls or in-person meetings on a monthly or more frequent basis with representative membership committees. NTCA also engages in member-wide webcasts and conference calls at least once per quarter, and more frequently in recent months, to provide updates and field questions related to potential universal service reforms and other policy-related matters.

Marlene H. Dortch

October 15, 2015

Page 2 of 2

Relatedly, Mr. Law illustrated the industry's strong interest in support for "stand alone" broadband by referring to informal complaints that have been made by Golden West customers who are dissatisfied with the need to purchase a voice service in order to obtain broadband services whose rates are balanced by high cost support. Mr. Law quoted a local Better Business Bureau filing in which a customer speculated, "This has to be in violation of the FCC rules governing internet sales. I want to purchase internet only. Not telephone service also."

Thank you for your attention to this correspondence. Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, a copy of this letter is filed with via ECFS.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

s/Joshua Seidemann

Joshua Seidemann

Vice President of Policy

cc: Amy Bender  
Nicholas Degani  
Rebekah Goodheart  
Travis Litman  
Carol Matthey  
Stephanie Weiner