



October 21, 2015

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, October 19, 2015, the undersigned on behalf of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association (“NTCA”), met with Commissioner Michael O’Rielly and his legal advisor, Amy Bender, to discuss matters in the above-referenced proceeding.

NTCA expressed support for taking a reasonable set of steps as soon as possible to implement carefully designed, well-tested updates to the existing universal service mechanisms to make them operate more efficiently and effectively in a broadband-focused world, paired with a voluntary option for model-based support that ensures funding flows to where it is needed most to deploy and sustain broadband. NTCA further discussed materials recently submitted by the association and other stakeholders related to specific suggestions by certain Federal Communications Commission (the “Commission”) offices for potential reforms of universal service support mechanisms. *See Ex Parte* Letter from Lynn Follansbee, USTelecom, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Commission, WC Docket No. 10-90 (filed Sept. 25, 2015). NTCA discussed the views of its members regarding outstanding questions related to those ideas and other potential aspects of reform, as well as the processes that might be employed to understand, examine, and analyze such concepts and proposals while enabling rapid movement forward on certain, much-needed aspects of reform. *See Ex Parte* Letter from Lynn Follansbee, USTelecom, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Commission, WC Docket No. 10-90 (filed Oct. 2, 2015).

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: Commissioner Michael O’Rielly
Amy Bender