



October 26, 2016

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 24, 2016, the undersigned, on behalf of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association (“NTCA”), met with Carol Matthey, Alexander Minard, Suzanne Yelen, Jonathan Lechter, and Dana Zelman of the Wireline Competition Bureau regarding matters in the above-referenced proceeding. Gerry Duffy on behalf of WTA-Advocates for Rural Broadband, Lynn Follansbee of USTelecom, and Genny Morelli of ITTA-The Voice of Mid-Size Communications Companies were also present during the meeting.

The discussion during the meeting related primarily to questions posed by the industry representatives regarding implementation of universal service fund reforms and reporting requirements. During this conversation, however, NTCA also specifically raised concerns with respect to the potential effects of impending budget controls on carriers’ ability to fulfill the aspirations of the reforms, identifying in particular concerns with respect to: (1) whether those receiving “non-model” support would be able to deliver standalone broadband at reasonably comparable rates or achieve buildout obligations in the face of insufficient support due to budget controls; and (2) whether those electing “model” support would be able to achieve more aggressive buildout obligations (or even obtain such support at all) in the event of “oversubscription” in the election process. NTCA expressed apprehension that a lack of sufficient support could undermine the ability of carriers on both paths to carry out the mission of universal service, deter investment, and/or compel much higher prices for broadband from rural consumers. NTCA expressed a strong desire to work promptly with the Federal Communications Commission (the “Commission”) to avoid any such result that frustrates the professed goals of the reforms.

Marlene H. Dortch

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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: Carol Matthey
Alexander Minard
Suzanne Yelen
Jonathan Lechter
Dana Zelman