



November 16, 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 Thursday, November 12, 2015, the undersigned on behalf of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association, together with Byron Dorgan of Arent Fox, met with Commissioner Mignon Clyburn and her legal advisor, Rebekah Goodheart.

During the conversation, we expressed the unique challenges faced by smaller firms that operate exclusively across high-cost, rural areas and the importance of predictable and sufficient universal service support to such firms in fulfilling the statutory mission of universal service. We explained the long-standing interest of rural carriers in being better able to respond to consumer demand for standalone broadband services, while also urging a careful, thoughtful process in adopting any reforms to existing universal service mechanisms.

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 Mignon Clyburn  
Rebekah Goodheart