



December 4, 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, December 3, 2015, the undersigned on behalf of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association, together with Byron Dorgan of Arent Fox, met with Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel and her legal advisor, Travis Litman.

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 and the eagerness of such carriers for reform in the near future, while also urging a careful, thoughtful process in considering more complex and potentially disruptive 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 Jessica Rosenworcel
Travis Litman