## Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Rural Call Completion	)	WC Docket No. 13-39

## OPPOSITION of the NATIONAL EXCHANGE CARRIER ASSOCIATION, Inc., NTCA – THE RURAL BROADBAND ASSOCIATION, the WESTERN TELECOMMUNICATIONS ALLIANCE, and the EASTERN RURAL TELECOM ASSOCIATION

Pursuant to section 1.45 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.45, the

National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc. ("NECA"), NTCA – The Rural Broadband

Association ("NTCA"), the Western Telecommunications Alliance ("WTA"), and the

Eastern Rural Telecom Association ("ERTA") (collectively, the "Rural Associations")

respectfully oppose the Motion for Extension of Time submitted by the National

Association of Regulatory State Utility Consumer Advocates ("NASUCA") in the abovecaptioned proceeding on May 16, 2013.<sup>1</sup>

NASUCA seeks a 30-day extension of time to file Reply comments in this proceeding (*i.e.*, until June 28, 2013). According to NASUCA, this extension is warranted because comments submitted in response to the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("NPRM") involve technical information "regarding the workings"

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> NASUCA Motion for Extension of Time to File Reply Comments, WC Docket No. 13-39 (filed May 16, 2013).

of an increasingly complex and diverse telecommunications network." NASUCA states that additional time is needed to formulate thoughtful responses to these comments, as well as time to circulate drafts among NASUCA's membership. NASUCA further points out that the current fifteen-day period for Replies includes the Memorial Day holiday.<sup>3</sup>

The Rural Associations agree completely with NASUCA that the "problem of rural call dropping has persisted for years" and that associated issues should be evaluated carefully. But while NASUCA asserts an additional 30 days' time for Replies will not cause undue delay in the search for a solution, the fact is that solutions to the rural call completion problem have already been delayed too long. The Commission should not add additional delay at this point via an extension of time.

The Rural Associations understand completely the difficulties of addressing complex issues raised in comments and in reaching consensus among constituent members as to reasonable responses. In fact, the Rural Associations share the exact same burdens. But the correct response to a problem that "has persisted for years" is not to add delay but to move forward as quickly as possible with potential resolutions. As will be made plain in the Rural Associations' Reply comments, many of the technical issues raised in comments are in fact red herrings, designed simply to delay implementation of the Commission's plans to collect necessary data, and therefore do not warrant extensive consideration.

For these reasons, the Rural Associations oppose grant of an extension of time for Reply comments in this proceeding. If the Commission nevertheless does decide to grant NASUCA's request, the Commission should redouble its efforts to consider the record in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> *Id.* at 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> *Id*.

this proceeding in a speedy way, and to adopt final rules governing collection of data as proposed in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, so as to assure resolution of rural call completion problems as quickly as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

NATIONAL EXCHANGE CARRIER ASSOCIATION, INC. By: /s/ Richard A. Askoff Richard A. Askoff Its Attorney 80 South Jefferson Road Whippany, NJ 07981 (973) 884-8000

NTCA-THE RURAL BROADBAND ASSOCIATION By: /s/ Michael R. Romano Michael R. Romano Senior Vice President – Policy 4121 Wilson Blvd, 10th Floor Arlington, VA 22203 (703) 351-2000

EASTERN RURAL TELECOM ASSOCIATION By: /s/ Jerry Weikle Jerry Weikle Regulatory Consultant 5910 Clyde Rhyne Drive Sanford, NC 27330 (919) 708-7404 WESTERN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
ALLIANCE
By: /s/ Derrick Owens
Derrick Owens
Vice President of Government Affairs
317 Massachusetts Avenue N.E.,
Ste. 300C
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 548-0202

By: /s/ Gerard J. Duffy
Gerard J. Duffy
Regulatory Counsel for
Western Telecommunications Alliance
Blooston, Mordkofsky, Dickens, Duffy
& Prendergast, LLP
2120 L Street NW
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20037
(202) 659-0830

May 20, 2013

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a copy of the Associations' Opposition was served this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2013 by electronic filing and e-mail to the persons listed below.

By: /s/ Elizabeth R. Newson Elizabeth R. Newson

The following parties were served:

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

Charles Acquard NASUCA 8380 Colesville Road, Suite 101 Silver Spring, MD 20910 charlie@nasuca.org