



March 18, 2019

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 Friday, March 15, 2019, Lynn Follansbee of USTelecom-The Broadband Association, Michael Jacobs of ITTA-The Voice of America's Broadband Providers, Derrick Owens and Gerry Duffy on behalf of WTA-Advocates for Rural Broadband, and the undersigned on behalf of NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association met with Preston Wise, Special Counsel to Chairman Ajit Pai, to discuss matters in the above-referenced proceeding.

Specifically, the parties discussed the urgent need to ensure the rate floor policy does not harm rural consumers in coming months, particularly as customer notifications must be sent and/or state regulatory approvals obtained in connection with substantial rate increases. The parties also discussed the need for a reasonable path for implementation of universal service performance testing requirements, including the need for: (1) the Federal Communications Commission (the "Commission") to resolve pending petitions for reconsideration and applications for review and to complete work on implementation details; (2) sufficient time for vendors and providers to develop solutions that conform to the final specifications once articulated by the Commission and will impose minimal intrusion upon customer experience; and (3) sufficient time to install such solutions and "test the testing" prior to the effectiveness of compliance requirements that would affect universal service support.

Thank you for your attention to this correspondence. Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the rules of the Commission, 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: Preston Wise