



Advocates for Rural Broadband

David Shipley
President

Kelly Worthington
Executive Vice President

June 3, 2021

Filed via ECFS

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, NE
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Wednesday, June 2, 2021, the undersigned on behalf of WTA – Advocates for Rural Broadband spoke with Austin Bonner, Legal Advisor for Wireline and Public Safety to Commissioner Geoffrey Starks, about the urgent need for WTA members that receive Connect America Fund – Broadband Loop Support (“CAF-BLS”) and High Cost Loop Support (“HCLS”) to receive relief from the budget control mechanism (“BCM”) for the upcoming tariff year starting July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022. I shared insights into what some WTA members have told me about the negative effects the proposed 8.59% reduction in CAF-BLS and HCLS support would have on their companies and their abilities to continue to deploy broadband. As such, I expressed support for the elimination of the BCM for the upcoming tariff cycle.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission’s Rules, this submission is being filed for inclusion in the public record of the referenced proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Derrick B. Owens
Senior Vice President of Government & Industry Affairs
WTA – Advocates for Rural Broadband

cc: Austin Bonner