



August 12, 2021

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

RE: *Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90 - Baca Valley Telephone Company, Inc. High Cost Payment Plan – via ECFS*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On August 10, Paul and Peggy Briesch from Baca Valley, Derrick Owens from WTA – Advocates for Rural Broadband, and Steve Gatto and the undersigned from Vantage Point Solutions (VPS) met virtually with Carolyn Roddy, Chief of Staff for Commissioner Simington. On August 11, the same group met telephonically with Ramesh Nagarajan, wireline legal advisor to Acting Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel.

The purpose of the *ex parte* meetings was to introduce Baca Valley, a rural New Mexico broadband carrier serving over 2,700 square miles with a customer density of 0.50 customers per square mile. We reviewed the challenges Baca is facing in its current discussions with USAC concerning the USAC error for high cost calculations that will require Baca to repay approximately \$304,478, with an initial payment due on August 13, 2021. The Baca *ex parte* team reviewed its request to have additional time to verify USAC's calculations that have changed three times without adequate documentation support. Baca also requests that the current 36 month payback period be extended to a more reasonable 72 month payback cycle.

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/ Jeffrey H. Smith

Jeffrey H. Smith
VP of Public Policy and Advocacy

CC: Ramesh Nagarajan
Carolyn Roddy
Paul and Peggy Briesch
Derrick Owens
Steve Gatto