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WTA Supports Introduction of Legislation to Require FCC to Address USF Contributions Modernization

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Nov. 22, 2021) – WTA – Advocates for Rural Broadband supports bipartisan legislation introduced by Senators John Thune (R-SD), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Jerry Moran (R-KS), and John Hickenlooper (D-CO) to require the FCC to complete a study and rulemaking on modernizing the Universal Service Fund (USF) contributions system.

“The current USF contribution mechanism is outdated and is based on revenue from long-distance telephone service which doesn’t reflect today’s broadband world. There isn’t anyone who doesn’t think it’s not antiquated,” said Derrick Owens, Senior Vice President of Government & Industry Affairs. “The contributions factor continues to rise, and this is not expected to change unless the FCC acts. We encourage the FCC and Congress to work together to find a solution so that the responsibility of contributing to the Fund is spread equitably among those who benefit from the broadband network. We applaud this bipartisan group of Senators for their efforts in spurring the FCC to action. We look forward to working with them and their colleagues in the House of Representatives to address this issue.”

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WTA – Advocates for Rural Broadband is a national trade association that represents more than 360 small, rural telecommunications carriers providing voice, broadband and video-related services in the United States. WTA’s members serve some of the most rural and hard-to-serve communities in the country and are on the forefront of bringing 21st Century telecommunications services to rural America. To learn more about WTA, visit www.w-t-a.org.