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**Contact: Derrick Owens  
202-548-0202, [derrick@w-t-a.org](mailto:derrick@w-t-a.org)**

**WTA Argues for Constitutionality of and Need for USF  
in *Amicus* Brief at Supreme Court**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (January 15, 2025)** – Today, WTA – Advocates for Rural Broadband filed an *amicus curiae* brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *FCC vs. Consumers’ Research* supporting the constitutionality of the Federal Universal Service Fund. The brief also highlighted the significant harm that would occur in rural and Tribal areas should the Supreme Court uphold the ruling of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. In addition, the brief details the numerous benefits that have accrued as a result of the USF program for the people, businesses, and government customers in the territories of a representative set of our members.

WTA’s brief argued that in creating USF, Congress “codified the long-standing system of telecommunications services providers contributing to the funding of universal service support, and expanded that support to ensure that affordable service was available to all...In doing so, it acted well within its constitutional authority.”

“If [the Fifth’s Circuit’s decision is] not reversed, its ruling will have calamitous effects on millions of customers for whom the program is a lifeline connecting them to the modern world – individuals, schools, hospitals and others in rural and Tribal areas throughout the country.”

“The Sixth and Eleventh Circuit Courts have upheld the constitutionality of USF,” said Derrick Owens, WTA’s Senior Vice President of Government and Industry Affairs. “We urge the Supreme Court to reverse the novel conclusion reached by the Fifth Circuit and prevent a potential disruption in one of our country’s most important programs to ensure everyone has access to 21<sup>st</sup> Century communications networks.”

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*WTA – Advocates for Rural Broadband is a national trade association that represents nearly 400 small, rural telecommunications carriers providing broadband, voice, 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](http://www.w-t-a.org).*