



October 2, 2017

**Ex Parte Notification**

Ms. Marlene Dortch  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Connect America Fund, WC Docket 10-90

Dear Ms. Dortch,

On September 27 2017, Stanley Rouse, Chief Executive Officer and General Manager for Glenwood Telephone Membership; Tonya Mayer, General Manager, Hemingford Cooperative Telephone; Linda L McKain, Controller – Vice President, BW Telcom; Kacey Fries, Chief Operating Officer, BW Telcom; and the undersigned met in individual meetings with Jay Schwarz, Wireline Advisor to Chairman Pai and Amy Bender, Wireline Legal Advisor to Commissioner O’Rielly.

During the discussion, participants raised concerns regarding reductions of Universal Service Fund (USF) support, including recent developments in the budget control mechanism, and the impact these reduced distributions will have on their customers and communities. Participants also expressed support for a recent NTCA proposal that the FCC direct USAC to continue to collect the current overall high-cost USF budget of \$4.5 billion beyond the end of this year and/or apply existing Connect America Fund (CAF) reserves to offset shortfalls experienced by cost-based rate of return LECs (RLECs) pending completion of a budgetary review.<sup>1</sup> Attendees stressed the urgency of the issue and asked the FCC to take steps to mitigate the effects of the budget shortfall before the end of the year.

Any questions about the information in this filing may be directed to the undersigned. Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the FCC’s rules, this letter is being filed electronically via ECFS.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

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<sup>1</sup> See NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association 08.11.17 FCC Ex Parte-Notice of NTCA Meeting with J. Schwarz Re High-Cost USF Support, WC 10-90. Rcvd. August 15, 2017.

Sincerely,

/s/ Stacey Brigham

Stacey Brigham  
Director of Federal Policy Analysis and Advocacy  
TCA, Inc.

CC: Jay Schwarz  
Amy Bender