

October 4, 2018

Chairman Pai
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554



In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Pai:

I am pleased to support the nomination of Olivia Wein to the Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors for a second term in the position for information service providers.¹ Ms. Wein is the Lead Telecom Project Attorney for the National Consumer Law Center and has been a highly-regarded resource on the Universal Services Programs—and Lifeline in particular—for the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights Media and Telecommunications Task Force which I co-chair.

The National Consumer Law Center performs a unique role because of its close relationship as counsel to low-income people and close partner with organizations that represent low-income consumers. The NCLC is particularly well-suited because of its long history of fighting for access to affordable, essential utility service. Moreover, Ms. Wein is widely viewed in the public interest and civil rights communities as the single most expert advocate on Lifeline issues and has the trust of myself and the organizations that I work with. Her utility expertise, coupled with her knowledge and contacts in the low-income advocacy sector, make her value to the Board unique.

I have worked closely with Ms. Wein on the Media and Telecommunications Task Force and can attest to her dedication to the mission of universal service for low-income households and their communities. She understands that an integral part of this mission is ensuring program integrity and she also understands the importance of ensuring the dignity of those the universal service programs serve. She is also benefits from excellent working relationships with Commission and USAC staff. She is able to identify critical matters and find compromise where necessary.

If the Board were to lose her expertise during this important time in the evolution of the Lifeline program, I and many others would view it as a significant loss significantly damaging the likelihood that the process would result in the best possible service to low income people.

I enthusiastically endorse Ms. Wein's nomination to serve a second term on the USAC Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

Cheryl A. Leanza
Policy Advisor

cc: Charles Tyler, FCC Wireline Competition Bureau

¹ In 2013 the Wireline Competition Bureau did not receive nominations for the seats representing interexchange carriers with more than \$3 billion in annual operating revenues or information service providers and as a result waived 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.703(b) and 54.703(c)(3) to appoint members from the telecommunications field for those two seats, enabling USAC to operate with its full complement of Board members. *See Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Changes to the Board of Directors of the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc.; Nominations for Board Member Positions on the Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors*, CC Docket Nos. 96-45, 97-21, Order, DA 13-607 (Wireline Comp. Bur. Rel.Apr.25, 2013).