

October 26, 2017

Marlene Dortch  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, Room TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

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

Dear Secretary Dortch:

It is with great pleasure that I nominate my colleague, Eric Brown, to serve as the **rural health care provider representative** on the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors. As the President and CEO of OCHIN, Inc., I have known and collaborated with Mr. Brown for the past seven (7) years as we have worked together to advocate and innovate for the vulnerable patients that are served by our nation's network of rural health care providers, safety net clinics, and hospitals. He provides a distinguished voice to rural health that, when coupled with his dynamic leadership and background, delivers a rich perspective to our work.

As his resume depicts, Mr. Brown is an exceptional candidate, bringing a wealth of professional and highly-relevant experience to the USAC Board. He is a graduate of the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) with a bachelor's degree in political science, and he holds a master's degree in business administration from the Darden School of Business Management at the University of Virginia.

I have known Mr. Brown since 2010, when he launched the California Telehealth Network (CTN). Under his experienced leadership, CTN has transformed into the largest consortium of safety net clinics and hospitals in California, providing broadband and virtual care services to rural and medically underserved communities. CTN was originally funded through the FCC's Rural Health Care Pilot Program which provided CTN with up to \$22.1 million, the largest single state award of its kind. CTN continues to serve as California's authorized FCC broadband consortium for healthcare. Mr. Brown has also led the organization in the development and expansion of services to support rural providers by securing funding to purchase telehealth equipment for rural health centers, and by extending telehealth training and support for rural and medically underserved clinics and hospitals through the California Telehealth Resource Center.

Mr. Brown came to CTN in 2010 after a distinguished career building and running broadband telecommunications systems in urban and rural communities around the country. He has served on the USAC Board historically, and currently serves on the Board of the Schools Health and Libraries (SHLB) broadband coalition, as well as the Boards of numerous corporate and non-profit organizations.

I truly cannot think of a more qualified candidate for this position. If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to connect with me via phone (503.943.2500) or email ([searsa@ochin.org](mailto:searsa@ochin.org)).

Sincerely,



Abby Sears  
President & CEO