

January 16, 2018

VIA ECFS

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Notice of ex parte from Gila River Telecommunications, Inc., Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90; Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment, WT Docket No. 17-79*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

By this letter, and pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules,¹ Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. (GRTI) provides notice of meetings that took place between GRTI counsel and Barbara Esbin, Deputy Bureau Chief of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau on January 11, 2018. During the meeting, GRTI counsel provided information on an order that was circulated on February 13, 2017 that would exempt carriers primarily serving Tribal lands from the effects of the operating expense limitation rule (47 C.F.R. § 54.303) and would make that exemption effective from January 1, 2017. Consistent with past ex parte filings, GRTI counsel explained that GRTI has been negatively impacted by the operations expense limitation rule since it went into effect in January of 2017, resulting in a reduction in support of approximately \$1.1 million per year.² This represents a significant reduction for small companies like GRTI serving Tribal lands.

GRTI counsel also provided an overview of GRTI's other work before the Commission noted the work of the Gila River Indian Community in the wireless infrastructure proceeding.³

¹ 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206.

² Letter from Gregory Guice, Counsel for Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. to Marlene Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, filed June 16, 2017, available at <https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/10617198743901/GRTI%20Ex%20Parte%20Meeting%20with%20Chairman%20Pai%20OPEX%20Limits.pdf>.

³ Gila River Indian Community Comments, WT Docket No. 17-79, filed June 15, 2017, available at <https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/10615223854652/GRIC%20Comment%20on%20Wireless%20Infrastructure%20proceeding.pdf>.

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Please direct any questions to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Gregory Guice
Gregory Guice