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*Via Electronic Filing*

*Ex Parte Communication*

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

Re: *Wireline Competition Bureau Seeks Comment on Promoting Broadband Internet Access Service for Veterans*, WC Docket No. 18-275.

Dear Ms. Dortch:

AT&T agrees with the Commission that access to broadband is critical to ensure that veterans can fully and meaningfully participate in American society and obtain the information and resources they need to connect with healthcare services, find jobs, and obtain military benefits.<sup>1</sup>

In order to promote broadband adoption by veterans, AT&T launched a discount program for active military personnel, veterans, and their family members, that provides significant discounts on wireless service, DirecTV, and home internet. Specifically, active military, veterans and family members on an AT&T Unlimited &More or AT&T Unlimited &More premium wireless plan can receive 25% off wireless service, \$15 off per month for select video services, including DirecTV or DirecTV NOW, and \$15 off per month for select AT&T Internet services.<sup>2</sup> These discounts will serve to promote veterans' access to and adoption of both mobile and fixed broadband connectivity.

AT&T shares the Commission's deep commitment to those who are currently serving or have served the United States as a member of the military and their families. It is because of this commitment that AT&T has launched or participated in a wide array of initiatives targeted at supporting this community.

For example, AT&T is a founding member of the Veteran Jobs Mission, which was launched in 2011 by JPMorgan Chase and 10 other companies, who committed to hiring 100,000 veterans

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<sup>1</sup> *Wireline Competition Bureau Seeks Comment on Promoting Broadband Internet Access Service for Veterans*, Public Notice, WC Docket No. 18-275 (September 12, 2018).

<sup>2</sup> AT&T Shows Appreciation for Military and Veterans with Industry-Leading Wireless, Video and Internet Discount Offers, (October 2, 2018) [https://about.att.com/newsroom/2018/att\\_military\\_discounts.html](https://about.att.com/newsroom/2018/att_military_discounts.html) (last checked October 11, 2018) ("AT&T Military Discounts").

collectively by 2020.<sup>3</sup> As a founding member, AT&T committed to hire 10,000 additional veterans between 2013 and 2020,<sup>4</sup> and by 2015 it had met that goal.<sup>5</sup> In 2016, AT&T announced that it would double its original commitment by hiring an additional 10,000 veterans—for a total of 20,000—by 2020.<sup>6</sup> But AT&T's commitment to veterans is not a recent fad. More than 30 years ago, AT&T employees founded an employee resource group (ERG) that now includes more than 10,000 members and that creates an instant community for veterans joining the company. This group recognizes the challenges that veterans can face when transitioning to a civilian job and offers tools to optimize the transition into the AT&T family. The ERG also encourages participation in outreach and philanthropy, as well as providing opportunities for networking and career advice – including ways to refer fellow veterans for employment opportunities at AT&T.

In addition to its commitment to hiring and supporting veterans, AT&T has also contributed or directed about \$21 million to organizations and projects that support our military, veterans and their families over the past 5 years,<sup>7</sup> including organizations like Team Rubicon, Cell Phones for Soldiers, Thank Our Heroes, and Carry the Load.

AT&T continues to look for new ways to promote broadband among veterans (and indeed, among other potentially underserved communities), and looks forward to working with the Commission in this docket to explore ideas to encourage broadband availability and adoption.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

/s/ Josh Woodbridge

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<sup>3</sup> See Veteran Jobs Mission, *About the Mission*, <https://www.veteranjobsmission.com/about-the-mission> (last checked October 11, 2018).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> Supporting Our Troops, updated June 28, 2018, <https://about.att.com/content/csr/home/people/supporting-our-troops.html> (last checked October 11, 2018).

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> AT&T Military Discounts.