



February 21, 2018

**Ex Parte**

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: Connect America Fund**  
WC Docket No. 10-90

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On February 20, 2018, Jonathan Spalter and Lynn Follansbee of USTelecom met with Commissioner Mignon Clyburn and her Legal Advisor, Claude Aiken, to discuss the Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on circulation that addresses the Universal Service Fund High Cost budget. USTelecom expressed support action regarding the pending item as necessary steps towards ensuring sufficiency within the High Cost fund to support the current shortfalls in funding for rural areas.

We discussed the importance of the High Cost fund as part of the overall USF program and how the insufficiency of funding has effected broadband providers' ability to build out fiber to rural areas. The parties also discussed proposed elimination of expenses as enumerated in the Commissioner's January joint blog with Commissioner O'Reilly as a good step towards ensuring the program is able to work efficiently.

Please contact the undersigned should you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

USTELECOM ASSOCIATION

By: \_\_\_\_\_

B. Lynn Follansbee  
Vice President – Law & Policy

cc: Claude Aiken