



February 26, 2019

**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 25, 2019, B. Lynn Follansbee, USTelecom, met with Randy Clarke, Acting Wireline Legal Advisor to Commissioner Starks to discuss the Rate Floor proceeding.

During the meeting, USTelecom expressed that its preferred position is that the Commission eliminate the rate floor policy because it is an unnecessary regulatory burden for rural companies. If the current rate floor freeze is not at least extended the voice telephone rate will increase over \$8 per month for rural consumers, an unwarranted price increase for rural consumers. In addition, USTelecom noted the need for swift action in this matter due to the fact that some carriers have fast approaching state notification and tariffing requirements well in advance of the Commission's deadline for action.

Please contact the undersigned should you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

USTELECOM

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

B. Lynn Follansbee  
Vice President – Law & Policy

cc: Randy Clarke