



October 27, 2017

Chairman Ajit V. Pai
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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

Dear Chairman Pai:

I am pleased to support the nomination of Ellis Jacobs, Senior Attorney, Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. to the Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors for a second term as the representative for low-income consumers. Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE) is a non-profit regional law firm that provides high quality legal assistance in civil matters to help eligible low-income individuals and groups in western Ohio achieve self-reliance, and equal justice and economic opportunity.

Mr. Jacobs has been representing low-income people since the 1980s and brings a wealth of expertise to the USAC board. He is one of the few legal experts in the country who combines knowledge of low-income populations and telecommunications. Ellis has been the director of the Telephone and Technology Access Project which has won precedent-setting cases to increase access to telecommunications services in low income communities. He has served as a board member and chair of the Ohio Community Computing Network and the Ohio Community Technology Fund. He is the author of a number of articles on universal telecommunications access for low income communities. Ellis further brings international expertise from a fellowship studying telecommunications law in the United Kingdom. Most recently, ABLE's has performed a detailed analysis of low-income people's access to high speed broadband infrastructure in Dayton Ohio and Montgomery County Ohio.

It is critically important that low income consumers are represented by a sophisticated and talented attorney like Mr. Jacobs, who possesses significant expertise in the intersection of telecommunications and low-income communities. During his time on the board, Mr. Jacobs has focused on ensuring that lifeline program implementation is appropriate for and fits the needs of low income households, and has highlighted the importance of broadband access. His has dedicated significant effort to make sure that the program is implemented with integrity and accountability in order to protect this important program.

I strongly endorse Mr. Jacobs' nomination to serve a second term on the USAC Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles Tyler".

Policy Advisor

cc: Charles Tyler, FCC Wireline Competition Bureau