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April 19, 2019

VIA ECFS

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Notice of Ex Parte Presentation – Virgin Islands Telephone Corp. dba Viya; Connect USVI Fund (WC Docket No. 18-143)*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On April 16, 2019, my colleague Phillip Marchesiello and I, on behalf of Virgin Islands Telephone Corp. dba Viya (“Viya”), met with Preston Wise of the Office of Chairman Pai to discuss the above-referenced proceeding.

Our presentation in the meeting was consistent with other recent advocacy by Viya.<sup>1</sup> In particular, we noted the status of Viya’s wireline network restoration efforts.<sup>2</sup> In addition, we discussed the difficulties inherent in attempting to craft a competitive process for the assignment of universal service funds to support an area where the incumbent local exchange carrier (“ILEC”) already provides Connect America Fund-qualifying voice and broadband service to over 95 percent of the locations and historically has relied on USF support to do so at affordable rates.<sup>3</sup> We also discussed the importance of ensuring that Viya can continue to fulfill its obligations as the ILEC to provide voice and broadband services throughout the Territory.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., Letter from L. Charles Keller, counsel to Viya, to Marlene H. Dortch, FCC, WC Docket No. 18-143 (filed March 22, 2019).

<sup>2</sup> See *id.*, Attachment at 13.

<sup>3</sup> See *id.*, Attachment at 16-17.

<sup>4</sup> See *id.*, Attachment at 18.

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Please direct any questions regarding this filing to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

/s/ L. Charles Keller

L. Charles Keller

cc: Preston Wise