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May 7, 2018

Ex Parte Notice

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary Federal Communications
Commission 445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 2055

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

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Wednesday, May 2, 2018, Rob West, Executive Vice President, Infrastructure Banking, CoBank; Antony Bahr, Executive Vice President, Banking Services, CoBank; Catherine Moyer, CEO and General Manager, Pioneer Communications and serves on the CoBank Board of Directors; and I met with Dr. Jay Schwarz, Wireline Advisor, Office of Commissioner Ajit Pai.

We provided Jay background information on CoBank and our role in lending to entities deploying broadband in rural America. We discussed the value of statewide fiber networks to support middle mile access. When communication companies partner together to form statewide networks to deploy middle mile fiber, the rural regions benefit with enhanced access to data, voice and video service.

We expressed our appreciation of Chairman Pai's statement of May 1, 2018 recognizing the uncertainty that exists for small, rural carriers to make long term investments to bring high-speed broadband to millions of Americans who still lack it. We discussed the need to reform the contributions methodology to the Universal Service Fund (USF) to reflect the broadband consumers who are benefiting from the network that is supported by USF.

We distributed the CoBank's 2017 [Annual Report](#) and [Corporate Social Responsibility Report](#) for further background information.

Sincerely,

/s/ Sarah B. Tyree
Sarah B Tyree
Vice President, Policy and Public Affairs

Cc: Dr. Jay Schwarz