BUSH-TELL, INC.
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May 10, 2019

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Subject: Connect America Fund – Alaska Plan, WC Docket 16-271
Biennial Performance Plan Review

Bush-Tell, Inc. (BTI) is a local exchange carrier receiving universal service high cost support under the Alaska Plan Order. BTI is listed in the Alaska Plan Order as a carrier approved to maintain service at existing levels and therefore is subject to a biennial performance plan review.

As stated in our initial Alaska Infrastructure Fund Performance Obligations dated October 13, 2016 BTI's last mile network is capable of delivering higher broadband speeds but is limited by the middle mile network. We are continuing to upgrade our last mile network with fiber deployment in our exchanges of Aniak and Kalskag and are preparing to offer higher speeds to our subscribers when middle mile availability permits. Plans are to fiber the exchanges of Aniak, Grayling, Holy Cross, and Shageluk in the next five to eight years.

BIT is currently reselling the services of GCI who owns the middle mile that serves our area. Without this arrangement BTI would not be deploying broadband in any of our exchanges.

BTI will continue to investigate alternative options to access middle mile as they become available.

Respectfully,

William Douglas DeVore
President

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