

June 16, 2017

VIA ECFS

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization*, WC Docket No. 11-42; *Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support*, WC Docket No. 09-197; *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90; *Comprehensive Review of Universal Service Fund Management, Administration, and Oversight*, WC Docket No. 05-195; *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45; *Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism*, CC Docket No. 02-6; *Rural Health Care Support Mechanism*, WC Docket No. 02-60; *Lifeline and Link-Up*, WC Docket No. 03-109; *Changes to the Board of Directors for the National Exchange Carrier Association*, CC Docket No. 97-21

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On June 14, 2017, Brett Haan of Deloitte LLP and the undersigned met with Trent Harkrader, Ryan Palmer, and Jodie Griffin of the Wireline Competition Bureau to discuss the National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier Plan.

During that meeting, Deloitte discussed its experience with the Universal Service Administrative Company's ("USAC") process for selection of the National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier. Deloitte explained that it has broad experience with similarly situated eligibility programs. Deloitte therefore responded to USAC's Request for Proposals ("RFP") to serve as the National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier.

Deloitte shared the following observations about the RFP process:

- Deloitte noted that USAC issued the RFP before the draft National Verifier Plan was made public. This created some confusion about how best to address the draft in the context of the RFP.
- Deloitte is not aware of a formal notice from USAC that the RFP has been awarded, and the RFP remains listed as open on USAC's website.¹

¹ *Procurement*, UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY, <http://usac.org/about/tools/procurement/default.aspx>

Marlene H. Dortch

June 16, 2017

Page 2 of 2

Based on its experience, Deloitte suggested that the RFP process would benefit from additional transparency and fuller communication with bidders.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 730-1346, or bstrandberg@hwglaw.com, if you have questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BD Strandberg", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Brita D. Strandberg
Counsel to Deloitte LLP

cc: Meeting attendees