



50 F Street, NW, Suite 900  
Washington, DC 20001  
202-650-5860  
www.cobank.com

## ***Ex Parte Notice***

July 12, 2018

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

## **WC Docket No. 10-90**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Wednesday, July 11, 2018, Ted Koerner, Senior Vice President, Communications Banking Group and I met with Jamie Susskind, Chief of Staff to Commissioner Brendan Carr.

We provided Jamie with background information on CoBank and its role in lending to rural communication companies. CoBank and its Farm Credit System and commercial banking partners have \$4.2 billion in loan commitments to the telecommunications industry. CoBank serves a broad range of the industry sector, including wireless, cable and data infrastructure. In addition, CoBank finances rural electric cooperatives that are deploying rural broadband.

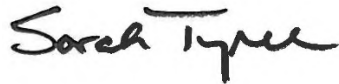
We discussed our commitment to serve rural America and provided an overview of CoBank's corporate social responsibility projects. We discussed the need of workforce development programs in rural America. We highlighted CoBank's role in sponsoring the launch of the [National Rural Water Apprenticeship program](#) to train the next generation of rural water and wastewater operators.

To help highlight the economic benefits of broadband to rural communities, we described a telemedicine pilot program in southwest Georgia focused on rural, low-income patients with Type II diabetes that CoBank recently sponsored. The initial results are exceeding expectations because the vast majority of the participating patients are lowering their blood sugar levels. At the conclusion of the pilot, CoBank will highlight the cost savings of the participating hospital and the improved health of the participating patients. The goal of this pilot program is to highlight the efficiency of universal broadband in rural areas to drive down healthcare costs. Often times the cost of deploying rural broadband is not discussed in term of how much cost efficiency can be gained in delivering a host of essential services such as healthcare.

We also mentioned CoBank's support of the Precision Agriculture Connectivity Act and the importance of broadband connectivity to cropland for precision agriculture.

We distributed the CoBank's 2017 [Annual Report](#) and [Corporate Social Responsibility Report](#) for further background information. We also distributed the [press release for the ConnectWell Telemedicine Pilot Program](#) and the attached Rural-Urban Divide pamphlet.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Tyree". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature is a solid black horizontal line.

Sarah B. Tyree  
Vice President, Policy and Public Affairs

Cc: Jamie Susskind