

July 12, 2019

**Ex Parte**

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

**Re: Rural Health Care Support Mechanism, WC Docket No. 02-60**

Dear Ms. Dortch,

Today, on behalf of my client Tanana Chiefs Conference (“TCC”), I met with Elizabeth Drogula, Philip Bonomo, Ryan Palmer, Trent Harkrader, and Regina Brown of the Wireline Competition Bureau (“WCB”).

The discussion concerned TCC’s Request for Review and Waiver (“Waiver Request”), filed on April 28, 2017, by which, in pertinent part, TCC requested that the Commission review and reverse a decision by the Universal Service Company (“USAC”) denying TCC’s request to file three FCC Forms 466 outside of the USAC-imposed filing windows for the Rural Health Care (“RHC”) Program for Funding Year 2016. USAC’s decision prevented TCC from obtaining funding that TCC requires to provide telehealth services for three rural health care providers (“HCPs”), which are part of TCC’s consortium.

The crux of the discussion concerned TCC’s request for expedited action on its Waiver Request. I also discussed the critical need for the telehealth services that TCC provides to the rural HCPs, as they are the only health care providers in the remote areas of Huslia, Hughes, and Chalkyitsik in Alaska. Citizens in those communities completely depend on the services provided by TCC. Those services are 98% funded by RHC. Accordingly, expedited action and a favorable decision on TCC’s Waiver Request is critical to ensure that the healthcare services continue.

Should you have any additional questions concerning this matter, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,

/s/Ronald E. Quirk  
Counsel to Tanana Chiefs Conference

cc: Elizabeth Drogula  
Philip Bonomo  
Ryan Palmer  
Trent Harkrader  
Regina Brown