



Participating “Affected Companies”

August 4, 2017

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

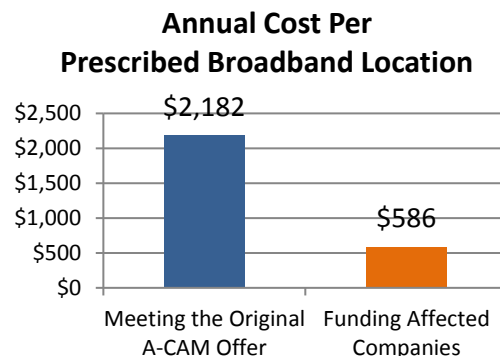
Re: Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On July 27, 2017, representatives of TDS Telecom, Great Plains Communications, Consolidated Telephone, and ITTA met with Jay Schwarz and Kenzie Nothnagel of the Office of Chairman Pai regarding the benefits that would be realized by funding the A-CAM Plan at \$200 per location.

A number of the “Affected Companies”¹ agree with the arguments advanced by those representatives, and with the numerous statements made by NTCA on this topic. It is clear additional model funding (along with predictable and sufficient funding to rate-of-return RLECs) could aid greatly in the deployment of broadband in rural America.

In addition to fully funding the model, the FCC could deploy broadband in an even more efficient manner by also issuing new offers of model-based funding to the Affected Companies. Providing model funding to the Affected Companies would increase the number of prescribed broadband locations by 32% but only increase new model funding by 9% (compared to only fully funding the original model offers). The Affected Companies can provide new prescribed broadband locations for less than \$600 annually.



Sincerely,

Dustin “Dusty” Johnson
Vice President of Consulting
Vantage Point Solutions

¹ The Affected Companies who have approved this letter are Grand River Mutual (MO), Baraga Telephone (MI), Miles Telephone (IA), and Steelville Telephone Exchange (MO).