

August 13, 2018

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: **Ex parte filing** in WC Docket No. 16-271

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On August 9th, 2018 an *ex parte* meeting was conducted by Jens Laipenieks, CEO from Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative, Inc. (ASTAC) with Commissioner Brendan Carr and his Chief of Staff Jamie Susskind.

ASTAC provided an overview of the company and its markets, an update on recent fiber optic projects and ongoing utilization of the Alaska Plan monies, as well as a “hands-on” tour of the current FTTP project underway in Utqiagvik, Alaska. The completed projects discussed included the installation of fiber optic drops to 100% of homes and businesses in Point Hope, Wainwright and Nuiqsut and the upgrade to 4G wireless service in Deadhorse/Prudhoe Bay and all eight North Slope villages. Future projects discussed included the proposed overland fiber build between Utqiagvik and Atkasuk and microwave project between Prudhoe Bay and the village of Kaktovik. Other discussion topics included construction challenges in the Arctic, coastal erosion, and transportation logistics and costs.

As required by the Commission’s rules, this *ex parte* record is now filed in the above referenced docket. If there are any questions, please call me on 503.612.4409.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey H. Smith
President and CEO

Copy to: Jens Laipenieks, ASTAC
 Steve Merriam, ASTAC
 Jamie Susskind, FCC