



August 28, 2017

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

Re: *Ex Parte* Communication: WC Docket Nos. 17-144, 17-84, and 10-90

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On August 24, 2017, Bob DeBroux of TDS Telecommunications (participating by phone), Mike Skrivan of Consolidated Communications, Karen Brinkmann of Karen Brinkmann PLLC, and Genny Morelli and the undersigned of ITTA met with Nathan Eagan of the Office of Commissioner Carr regarding the above-captioned proceedings.¹

With respect to the petition for rulemaking regarding regulation of business data services for model-based rate-of-return carriers, we noted that there was only one comment substantively opposing the petition, and that comment was, in reality, an improper attempt to relitigate the Commission's actions with respect to business data services for price cap carriers. We discussed various elements of the petition, including that the petition is designed to remove one of the last vestiges of legacy rate-of-return regulation applicable to model-based rate-of-return carriers. We also asserted the need for such carriers to continue receiving CAF-ICC support and discussed the merits of the petition's associated request for an exception to the "all or nothing" rule, observing that the cost-shifting concerns underlying the all or nothing rule are not present here, and that the Commission has waived the all or nothing rule in the past in order to promote carriers transitioning towards price cap regulation. We expressed that we are eager for the Commission to release a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on the petition's proposals.

Regarding the A-CAM Plan, we discussed the attached presentation. We emphasized the benefits and efficiencies that would be realized from funding the A-CAM Plan at \$200 per location this calendar year. We estimated that funding the A-CAM Plan at \$200 per location would require approximately an additional \$100 million per year.

¹ *Wireline Competition Bureau Seeks Comment on Petition for Rulemaking Regarding Regulation of Business Data Services for Model-Based Rate-of-Return Carriers*, WC Docket No. 17-144, Public Notice, 32 FCC Rcd 4701 (WCB 2017); *Accelerating Wireline Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment*, WC Docket No. 17-84, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Notice of Inquiry, and Request for Comment, 32 FCC Rcd 3266 (2017); *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 31 FCC Rcd 13775 (2016).

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Finally, we referenced ITTA's comments in the Wireline Broadband Investment Barriers proceeding,² stressing the importance to ITTA's members of the Commission granting relief from misguided and onerous copper retirement, Section 214 discontinuance, and other rules that hinder investment in broadband infrastructure and inhibit technology transitions.

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned with any questions regarding this submission.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Michael J. Jacobs
Vice President, Regulatory Affairs

cc: Nathan Eagan

² See ITTA Comments, WC Docket No. 17-84 (June 15, 2017).