



September 27, 2017

Ex Parte Notice

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

RE: *Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90; Restoring Internet Freedom, WC Docket No. 17-108; Accelerating Wireline Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment, WC Docket No. 17-84; Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment, WT Docket No. 17-79*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Monday, September 25, 2017, members and staff of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association (“NTCA”) listed on the attachment hereto met with Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel and her wireline advisor, Travis Litman.

During the meeting, certain of the NTCA members present discussed the negative impacts arising out of universal service fund budget shortfalls on broadband infrastructure investments and consumer rates for broadband services. Members also emphasized the importance and efficiency of aiming for and promoting long-term investment in future-proof fixed infrastructure assets that can respond meaningfully to consumer demand now and into the future, and how such assets can also help realize complementary 5G wireless objectives in rural America. They further discussed what might be done to expedite infrastructure deployment in rural areas through more efficient permitting processes and more streamlined environmental and other reviews. Finally, members discussed the continuing need for an effective and legally sustainable framework that will promote the shared interest of all policymakers and stakeholders in the advancement of universal service and the interconnection and seamless exchange of data across networks and services in a broadband-focused communications ecosystem.

Thank you for your attention to this correspondence. Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission’s rules, a copy of this letter is being filed via ECFS.

Sincerely,

/s/ Michael R. Romano

Michael R. Romano
Senior Vice President –
Industry Affairs & Business Development

cc: Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
 Travis Litman

NTCA MEETING ATTENDEES

William Hegmann
Southwest Arkansas Telephone Coop.

John Klatt
Lakeland Communications

Kevin Beyer
Federated Telephone Cooperative

Mark Bahnson
Bloomington Telephone Company

Don Bitz
Triangle Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Doug Boone
Premier Communications

Janet Britton
EATEL

Jim Dauby
PSC

Ron Hinds
GRM Networks

Allen Hoopes
Silver Star Communications

J. Frederick Johnson
Farmers Telecommunications Coop.

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Shawnee Telephone Company

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