



September 27, 2017

RE: "In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45"

Dear Chairman Pai:

On behalf of the nearly 850 community-based rural communications providers that are members of NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association, I respectfully submit this formal nomination of Mr. Geoffrey A. Feiss, General Manager of the Montana Telecommunications Association, to serve an additional term on the Board of Directors of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) as a representative for incumbent local exchange carriers (other than Bell Operating Companies) with annual reporting revenues of \$40 million or less.

Our statutory universal service policy and the Universal Service Fund (USF) are foundational components of a national strategy to ensure all Americans have access to advanced communications services that are reasonably comparable in price and scope. USAC and its board of directors play a critically important role in administering the USF in a manner that will ensure sustained and sustainable progress toward this mission, and it is crucial the board be comprised of individuals that understand, and are committed to, this mission. Mr. Feiss has demonstrated throughout his career as well as his prior service on the USAC Board that he is such a person. He has been an exemplary member of the USAC board, approaching his responsibilities with great diligence and care, aptly fulfilling the fiduciary aspects of his board position.

Given Mr. Feiss' experience and his familiarity with the mission of universal service that USAC ultimately promotes, we urge his reappointment to serve another term on the USAC board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shirley Bloomfield". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shirley Bloomfield
Chief Executive Officer

SAB:tdw