



North Carolina General Assembly
House Of Representatives

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HOUSE

November 08, 2017

Marlene Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Support for Requests for Temporary Enhanced Lifeline Support in
Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands; WC Docket Nos. 09-197, 11-
42, 10-90**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I submit this letter in support of the Emergency Petition of Telrite Corporation asking the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) to provide temporary enhanced support for Lifeline subscribers in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands with up to \$25 per month of enhanced Universal Fund Support for a limited six month period. As the Commission is aware, millions of people in Puerto Rico remain without regular electricity service and have limited access to gas, running water and communications in the aftermath of the destruction caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Puerto Rico Governor Ricardo Rosello recently said, "the administration has answered and has complied with our petitions in an expedited manner" but also that "[w]e need to do a lot more in order to get out of the emergency."

In the spirit of Governor Rosello's statement, we thank the administration and the Commission for all they have done already for Puerto Rico, including the Commission's approval of e-rate support and its efforts to make immediately available universal service funding to repair communication networks and restore services in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In addition, we thank the Commission for waiving many universal service program rules for participants and providers in Puerto Rico and other areas affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria to avoid unintended and negative impacts on consumers and service providers.

I support the Telrite Petition because it is consumer-focused and is competitively neutral. It helps the most people affected by the hurricanes and does not give preference to facilities-based Lifeline providers over resellers. Their Petition is a very reasonable approach to bring targeted

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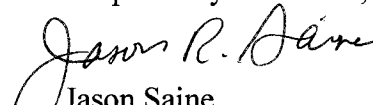
relief for the most low-income residents to help them jump start efforts to reconnect to family, government services and jobs in the wake of the unprecedented destruction caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria. To insure that the handset credit funds are disbursed responsibly Telrite proposes that written attestation be required to justify replacement of lost or damaged handsets.

Since there is a lot more to do to address the needs of Puerto Ricans to recover from the hurricanes, I ask the Commission to grant the Telrite Petition so that qualified low-income Puerto Ricans can receive temporary access to enhanced Lifeline service offerings as they gain access to more consistent electricity service and communications infrastructure is restored. Without reliable telecommunications connectivity, citizens have a difficult time finding emergency assistance, healthcare and jobs.

In summary, the relief requested in the Telrite Petition will help facilitate and enable the recovery process for some of the most vulnerable and disproportionately impacted people of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. It will help them to contact their loved ones, and contact civil services, employers or recovery agencies to provide for their care and support their families.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Please contact me with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,


Jason Saine
Representative

