

December 1, 2017

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

Re: *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The companies below are rural telecommunications companies in Nebraska that elected the revised offer of Alternative Connect America Model (“A-CAM”) support. We urge the Federal Communications Commission (“Commission”) to act before the end of this year to authorize additional A-CAM funding up to \$200/month per eligible location to enable more rural consumers in Nebraska to have broadband connectivity necessary for jobs, education, healthcare and economic development.

This additional funding will result in defined and measurable progress in closing the digital divide. The companies in Nebraska that elected the revised offer of A-CAM support in January 2017 committed at that time to deploy broadband to a specific number of additional locations if further funding were made available by December 31, 2017. We are ready, willing and able to meet those additional broadband deployment obligations if additional funding is provided.

Collectively, funding up to \$200/month per location would result in 4,077 additional locations with at least 10/1 Mbps broadband service in Nebraska, a 22 percent increase. Of that, 1,263 locations in Nebraska would have access to 25/3 Mbps broadband service, while 2,814 locations would newly have access to service of at least 10/1 Mbps. The number of A-CAM funded locations that would remain on “reasonable request” in Nebraska would decrease by almost 30 percent if funding is increased to this level.

The time to act is now. The mechanism to distribute additional funds to advance broadband deployment is already in place. The additional funding will be targeted to high-cost census blocks that are not served by unsubsidized competitors where, absent support, it is not economically feasible to extend broadband service. We are already upgrading networks and are eager to further extend the reach of those networks to additional customers. If we receive additional funding now, we will be able to design out network upgrades in the most efficient manner to better serve our customers.

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We urge the Commission to act by the end of this year to allocate additional funding to carry out its original decision to provide A-CAM funding for up to \$200/month per eligible location.

Sincerely,

Nebraska A-CAM Companies
American Broadband Communications
Consolidated Communications
Great Plains Communications
Hooper Telephone Company dba WesTel Systems
The Nebraska Central Telephone Company

cc: Chairman Ajit Pai
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly
Commissioner Brendan Carr
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel