

December 7, 2017

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

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

Dear Ms. Dortch:

We are rural telecommunications carriers that elected the revised offer of Alternative Connect America Model (A-CAM) support in Mississippi. We urge the Federal Communications Commission (“Commission”) to take action before the end of this year to authorize additional A-CAM funding up to \$200/month per eligible customer location to bring the broadband connectivity necessary for jobs, education, healthcare, and economic development to more rural consumers in our State.

The companies in Mississippi that elected the revised offer of A-CAM support committed 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. Additional funding of \$200/month per location would result in an additional 1,359 rural consumers in Mississippi having access to a minimum of 25/3 Mbps broadband service and an additional 787 rural consumers having access to service of at least 10/1 Mbps. The number of A-CAM funded locations that would remain on “reasonable request” in Mississippi would decrease by 60% if funding were increased to this level.

Allocating this additional funding would have tremendous benefits for rural Mississippians. It is clear that access to broadband is critical to economic growth and productivity in rural areas. As Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS) has said, it is “vitally important” for the Commission to ensure that the high-cost USF program provide “adequate and predictable support to help preserve and expand broadband in rural and underserved communities.”

There is no reason for the Commission to delay in providing additional funding to A-CAM plan participants. The mechanism to distribute additional funds is already in place and A-CAM companies already are upgrading their network infrastructure. Mississippi A-CAM companies are eager to further extend the reach of those networks to additional rural consumers. If we receive additional funding now, we will be able to design our network upgrades in the most efficient manner to better serve our communities.

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For all of the foregoing reasons, 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,

Christa L. Alexander  
General Counsel  
Vice President of Operations  
Fair Telecommunications Corporation

Bay Springs Telephone Company  
Bruce Telephone Company  
Calhoun City Telephone Company  
Delta Telephone Company  
Franklin Telephone Company

Fulton Telephone Company  
Mound Bayou Telephone Company  
Myrtle Telephone Company  
Smithville Telephone Company  
Southeast Mississippi Telephone Company

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