

December 8, 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:

We are nine Ohio rural telecommunications carriers that elected the revised offer of Alternative Connect America Model (A-CAM) support in January of this year. We are writing to urge the Commission to authorize additional A-CAM funding up to \$200/month per eligible customer location before December 31st, 2017. Doing so would allow us to further extend broadband in our communities, which would provide far reaching economic and social benefits to rural consumers in our State.

When we accepted A-CAM support we 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 a 10.2% increase in the number of rural locations in Ohio having access to a minimum of 25/3 Mbps broadband service and a 10.2% increase in the number of rural locations that would have access to service of at least 10/1 Mbps. The number of A-CAM funded locations that would remain on “reasonable request” in Ohio would decrease by 89 percent if funding were increased to this level.

Access to broadband is critical to economic growth and productivity in rural areas. Further extending the reach of broadband in Ohio will enable more children in our communities to do their homework at home, allow our seniors to age in place, and result in healthcare savings for the chronically ill who can be remotely monitored at home. Local government leaders and Chambers of Commerce agree that broadband provides significant economic growth and opportunities. One Ohio county executive has stated that the lack of high-speed broadband is the number one challenge his county faces in recruiting businesses and retaining residents. There are economic strategies under way to attract businesses and industries to our rural areas. We believe that additional A-CAM support would significantly assist with these endeavors and would contribute greatly to the education and professional development of our local workforces.

The time for the Commission to act is now. The mechanism to distribute additional funds is already in place. We are already upgrading network infrastructure in our communities and are eager to further extend the reach of those networks to additional customers. If we receive

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additional funding now, we will be able to design our network upgrades in the most efficient manner to better serve our communities.

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 of up to \$200/month per eligible location.

Sincerely,

The Ohio A-CAM Companies

Arcadia Telephone Company
Continental Telephone Company
Pattersonville Telephone Company
Sycamore Telephone Company
Ridgeville Telephone Company

Telephone Service Company
Little Miami Communications
Oakwood Telephone Company
Vanlue Telephone Company

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