

December 12, 2017

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

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FCC Mailroom

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

Dear Ms. Dortch:

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Alternative Connect America Model (A-CAM) funding is an important piece of an overall strategy for expanding the availability of broadband service in rural America. Arkansas is primarily a rural state and the expansion of broadband is vital to the economic and educational development of Arkansas. Its importance was highlighted when Governor Asa Hutchinson made computer programming education a key part of his agenda for Arkansas. Governor Hutchinson's Computer Coding Initiative was introduced, and passed, during the 2015 legislative session; this legislation paved the way for the Governor's plan to offer computer-coding classes in high schools across the state.

Fully funding the A-CAM program would result in significant gains in broadband availability in Arkansas. The companies in Arkansas that accepted 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. Collectively, additional funding of up to \$200/month per location would result in an additional 2,688 A-CAM funded locations in Arkansas with at least 10/1 Mbps broadband service, and 1,615 locations with access to 25/3 Mbps broadband service.

The advantages of expanding broadband service are not limited to rural areas of Arkansas. In today's global economy, it is important that the state take advantage of every available opportunity that would allow its citizens to compete and thrive. This funding would provide a positive economic, educational and health impact for the entire state.

I urge the Commission to act now to make additional funding available before year-end so that the promise of broadband expansion, contained in its original decision to provide A-CAM funding for up to \$200/month per eligible location, can be realized.

Sincerely,



Michael Preston
Executive Director

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