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EX PARTE NOTICE

December 8, 2014

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

Re: *Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90; A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, GN Docket No. 09-51; High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337; Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On December 4, 2014, Melissa Newman of CenturyLink spoke by phone with Ruth Milkman of the Office of Chairman Wheeler. They discussed the draft Order regarding the Connect America Fund that is on the tentative agenda for the Commission's next open meeting, scheduled for Thursday, December 11, 2014. Specifically, they discussed the economic impacts and trade-offs between potential Connect America Fund, Phase II (CAF II) network speed requirements, build-out obligations, construction periods, after-tax funding, and deployment flexibility. These factors each impact the economic feasibility of CAF II offers of support in ways that have been fully developed in the record. The discussion built on the previously filed estimate that CenturyLink would have to invest between \$5 billion and \$6 billion in incremental capital expenditure alone to provide 10 Mbps to the required number of CAF II households in its service areas, and explored how different combinations of CAF II requirements likely would impact the extent to which CenturyLink would find that it could accept statewide offers of support in some states but not in others.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules, a copy of this notice is being filed in the above-referenced dockets. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeffrey S. Lanning". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue grid background.

Copy via email to:
Ruth Milkman