

February 9, 2015

Ex Parte Notice
VIA ECFS

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

**Re: GN Docket No. 12-353, Comment Sought on the Technological
Transition of the Nation's Communications Infrastructure; GN Docket No.
13-5, Technology Transitions Policy Task Force**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On February 5, 2015 Edyael Casaperalta representing the Rural Broadband Policy Group, Jodie Griffin, Senior Staff Attorney of Public Knowledge, Whitney Kimball Coe representing the National Rural Assembly, Dee Davis, President of the Center for Rural Strategies, and Kim Phinney, Senior Director of Rural and Tribal Initiatives at YouthBuild USA, met with staff from the Consumer and Government Affairs Bureau (Bureau), Parul Desai, Lyle Ishida, Sherry Dawson, and Keyla Hernandez-Ulloa at the Federal Communications Commission (Commission).

The public interest advocates met with Bureau staff to learn about the Rural Tour the Commission is planning and to lend their expertise in outreach to rural communities. The groups encouraged the Bureau to include the Technology Transitions in the agenda of issues the Commission will discuss during the Rural Tour. In particular, information about how the transitions will impact basic telephone service in rural communities. The Rural Broadband Policy Group and Public Knowledge, groups that have followed closely the Commission's proceedings regarding technology transitions, offered the following recommendations:

1. The Bureau Must Help the FCC Develop and Enact a National Telephone Transition Campaign

The Commission must develop and enact a nation-wide comprehensive "Telephone Transition Campaign" to educate consumers about the changes to basic telephone service and any new responsibilities they will acquire as a result. The Commission must coordinate this campaign along with state agencies (Public Utilities Commissions, Office of Consumers Counsel, Departments of Public Safety, etc.), public interest and grassroots organizations, and carriers. Materials must be published in multiple languages and formats accessible to persons

with disabilities, and distributed in various forums that will ensure to reach the most vulnerable consumers: online, telephone, print, mail, radio, and television.

2. The Bureau Should Develop Consumer Guides About Technology Transitions

The Rural Broadband Policy Group and Public Knowledge encouraged the Bureau to develop a “Guide to New Technologies for Telephone Service” and a “Guide to Backup Power for New Technologies” as part of the materials that will help educate consumers about the impact of technology transitions on their lives:

- **Guide to New Technologies for Telephone Service:** A guide about the technologies a carrier can use to provide basic telephone service. This guide would educate consumers about the kind of technologies new telephone services will use and how these technologies impact the reliability of their service.
- **Guide to Backup Power for New Technologies:** A guide that compares backup power options. This guide would inform consumers of the options available (batteries, UPC power sources, generators, etc.) to provide backup power, their durability, quality, and reliability.

The public interest groups commend the Bureau for launching a much needed initiative to inform rural communities of the Commission’s vital role in ensuring their access to telecommunications services. We appreciate the opportunity to meet with the Bureau and look forward to continuing a conversation about how to best reach rural consumers.

This letter is being filed with your office in accordance with Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission’s rules.

Respectfully submitted,



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