



**National Rural Electric
Cooperative Association**

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FCC Mail Room

Ex-Parte Notice

January 26, 2015

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Hon. Marlene Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20536

**Re: Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90; ETC Annual Reports and
Certifications, WC Docket 14-58**

**Waiver from the Broadband Experiments Bank Eligibility Requirements for the
National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation**

Dear Secretary Dortch:

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (“NRECA”) is dedicated to representing the national interests of cooperative electric utilities and the consumers they serve. NRECA is the national service organization for more than 900 not-for-profit rural electric utilities that provide electric energy to over 42 million people in 47 states or 12 percent of electric customers. Our members were formed to provide reliable electric service to their owner-members at the lowest reasonable cost. Rural electric cooperatives operate according to seven principles, the 7th of which is Concern for Community. Under this principle, cooperatives focus on the needs of the community at large. Given that our communities are among the unserved and underserved with regard to broadband, NRECA members have recently become engaged in exploring building and managing broadband systems for the benefit of their member-owners, either as individual entities or in partnership with others.

The National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (“CFC”) is a nonprofit member-owned cooperative association whose primary purpose is to provide its members with financing to supplement the loan programs of the United States Department of Agriculture’s Rural Utilities Service. CFC was formed in 1969 as a result of an effort by NRECA and today CFC members are rural electric cooperatives who are members of NRECA. CFC lends to its members so they can acquire, build and operate utility distribution, generation, transmission and related facilities throughout the country. For most of its members CFC serves as a major (and for approximately 200 members, the only) financial resource. Many CFC members have access to a wide variety of borrowing options, yet choose to borrow exclusively from CFC because of attractive rates and flexible products.

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NRECA is filing this letter to support CFC's request to be included as an eligible financial institution to provide letters of credit for FCC programs. It is NRECA's belief that including this worthy institution as an eligible provider of financial services helps to increase the options available to our members and thus, encourages their participation in FCC programs. Many of CFC's members serve the most rural and impoverished areas of the United States. These areas are the ones most in need of more robust communications opportunities.

Thank you for your consideration of CFC's request.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirk Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kirk Johnson, Senior Vice President
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