
Alaska Telephone Association

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Christine O'Connor
Executive Director

March 13, 2015

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Ex parte filing in WC Docket No. 10-90

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On March 10th the undersigned, along with Doug Neal from OTZ Telephone Cooperative in Kotzebue, AK, Paul Kelly from Cordova Telephone Cooperative in Cordova, AK, Chris Nierman from GCI in Anchorage, AK, and Shannon Heim, Counsel for the Alaska Rural Coalition, met individually with 1) Travis Litman, Legal Advisor for Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel, and 2) Nicholas Degani, Legal Advisor for Commissioner Ajit Pai to discuss a universal service fund plan designed specifically for Alaska telecom providers.

At the meeting we summarized the Alaska Plan which contains recommendations for future universal service support for Alaska's rate of return and competitive providers. We described the challenges Alaskan providers face in bringing robust broadband to our communities and how those unique circumstances suggest a different path for universal service support in Alaska. We described the broadband performance obligations Alaska telecom providers will be able to meet under a stable universal service support regime and the limits to broadband service due to lack of middle mile infrastructure across large swaths of Alaska. We also discussed the Alaska Plan in relation to its impact on rural telecom providers in other states and emphasized that the Plan will not negatively impact high cost support for rural companies outside Alaska. We estimated the Plan's annual USF impact to be slightly under \$10 million and suggested it be funded through reserves. We do not believe this amount would unduly burden the reserves.

As required by Commission rules, this ex parte letter is being filed in WC Docket 10-90.

Respectfully submitted,

Via ECFS 3/13/15

Christine O'Connor
Executive Director

Alaska Telephone Association Ex Parte

Cc:

Travis Litman

Nick Degani

Doug Neal

Paul Kelly

Shannon Heim

Chris Nierman