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May 20, 2015

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

Re: Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, WC Docket No. 11-42; Lifeline and Link Up, WC Docket No. 03-109; Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45; Advancing Broadband Availability Through Digital Literacy Training, WC Docket No. 12-23

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On May 18, 2015, on behalf of the National Cable & Telecommunications Association (NCTA), Steve Morris and I met with Jonathan Lechter, Garnet Hanley, Gregory Kwan, Radhika Karmarkar, and Ryan Palmer of the Wireline Competition Bureau, and Jonathan Chambers, Chief of the Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Analysis, to discuss issues related to the above-captioned dockets. We discussed various initiatives undertaken by cable operators to provide low-cost broadband service to low-income consumers, such as Comcast's Internet Essentials, the Connect2Compete program, in which Bright House Networks, Cox Communications, Eagle Communications, Mediacom, and Suddenlink participate, and Midcontinent's Broadband Lifeline Assistance program.¹ We expressed NCTA's support for the Commission's efforts to repurpose universal service low-income funding to promote the adoption of broadband services by low-income consumers, and discussed potential barriers, including an overly-burdensome Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) designation process, that could preclude broadband providers from participating in a Lifeline universal service program for broadband.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ **Jennifer K. McKee**

Jennifer K. McKee

cc: J. Lechter
G. Hanley
G. Kwan
R. Karmarkar
R. Palmer
J. Chambers

¹ Information about these and other cable operator broadband adoption initiatives can be found on NCTA's website: <https://www.ncta.com/closing-the-digital-divide>.