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**VIA ECFS AND EMAIL**

December 3, 2015

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization*, WC Docket No. 11-42; *Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support*, WC Docket No. 09-197; *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90.

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Tuesday, December 1, 2015, Javier Rúa Jovet, Esq., Chairman of the Telecommunications Regulatory Board of Puerto Rico, Ileana Fas and Cristina Torres, advisors to Chairman Rúa, and the undersigned met with Commissioner Mignon Clyburn and Rebekah Goodheart, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Clyburn, to discuss the Commission's Lifeline modernization initiative. The attached presentation materials were distributed and discussed at the meeting.

At the meeting, we stressed the importance of Lifeline modernization to Puerto Rico, which has a broadband adoption rate of 48%, far lower than any state. Data recently released by the U.S. Census on broadband adoption show that there are only five municipalities in the entire nation with home broadband adoption less than 50% —and three of those five are in Puerto Rico. We emphasized strongly that proposed limitations on the eligibility of low-income consumers use to qualify for the program would be devastating for Puerto Rico and create enormous “qualification gaps,” due to the fact that federal nutrition assistance, school lunch, and other federal assistance programs operate differently in Puerto Rico. **The Commission's effort to modernize Lifeline will not succeed if it does not succeed in Puerto Rico.**

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

Sincerely,

*S/Thomas M. Koutsky*

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cc:

Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Rebekah Goodheart, Legal Advisor