



January 13, 2016

***Ex Parte Notice***

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

**RE: *Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90***

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Tuesday, January 12, 2016, the undersigned and Shirley Bloomfield, Chief Executive Officer of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association (“NTCA”), met with Commissioner Michael O’Rielly and his legal advisor, Amy Bender, to discuss matters in the above-referenced proceeding. During the meeting, NTCA expressed support for taking a reasonable set of steps as soon as possible to implement carefully designed, well-tested updates to the existing universal service mechanisms to make them operate more efficiently and effectively in a broadband-focused world, paired with a voluntary option for model-based support that ensures funding flows to where it is needed most to deploy and sustain broadband. We discussed NTCA’s firm commitment to participation in the ongoing reform discussions, and the need to ensure that objectives articulated by the Federal Communications Commission (the “Commission”) and specific Commission offices can and will be achieved via carefully crafted and vetted reform proposals that minimize the risk of unintended adverse consequences on the capability of carriers to ascertain their ability to invest and thereby better ensure the sustainability of investments made leveraging universal service resources.

Thank you for your attention to this correspondence. Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the rules of the Commission, a copy of this letter is being filed via ECFS.

Sincerely,

/s/ Michael R. Romano

Michael R. Romano  
Senior Vice President – Policy

cc: Commissioner Michael O’Rielly  
Amy Bender