



January 14, 2016

Ex Parte

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

Re: USTelecom Petition for Forbearance from Certain Incumbent
LEC Regulatory Obligations, WC Docket No. 14-192;
Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Tuesday, January 12, 2016, Jeff Lanning (CenturyLink), Alan Buzacott (Verizon), Malena Barzilai (Windstream), Hank Hultquist (AT&T), AJ Burton (Frontier) and Lynn Follansbee and I (USTelecom) met with Nick Degani, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Pai. We began the meeting by urging the Commission to move forward quickly to clarify qualifying locations for round two of the CAF I program while ensuring that no locations are counted as qualifying for both the CAF I and CAF II programs. We then discussed ETC mandates and support for the provision of voice services in very high-cost areas in the context of the recent USTelecom forbearance petition and the requirement in section 254 that the Commission provide explicit and sufficient support. Finally, we discussed parameters for a successful auction of remaining CAF II support and remote area fund support and the importance of moving forward to implement an auction framework quickly.

Pursuant to Commission rules, please include this ex parte letter in the above-identified proceedings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jonathan Banks".

Jonathan Banks
Senior Vice President, Law & Policy

c: Nick Degani