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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
Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support,
WC Docket No. 09-197
Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On January 15, 2016, on behalf of the National Cable & Telecommunications Association (NCTA), Steve Morris and I met with Trent Harkrader, Jodie Griffin, Jay Schwarz, Charles Eberle, and Garnet Hanley of the Wireline Competition Bureau to discuss the universal service Lifeline program. We discussed cable operators' commitment to providing broadband service to low-income consumers and expressed NCTA's agreement with the Commission's efforts to repurpose universal service low-income funding to support broadband. We addressed potential barriers, including an overly-burdensome Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) designation process, that could preclude providers from participating in a Lifeline universal service program for broadband. We also asked the Commission to ensure that companies that have obtained ETC designations to participate in the Lifeline program for voice services would automatically be eligible to participate in a Lifeline broadband program.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jennifer K. McKee

Jennifer K. McKee

cc: T. Harkrader
J. Griffin
J. Schwarz
C. Eberle
G. Hanley