



March 24, 2016

**Ex Parte**

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth 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 Wednesday, March 23, 2016, Jonathan Banks and I (USTelecom) met with Gigi Sohn, and Stephanie Weiner of Chairman Wheeler's office, Eric Feigenbaum (FCC OMR) and Trent Hardraker (FCC WCB) to discuss the above referenced proceeding.<sup>1</sup> Referencing USTelecom's comments in this proceeding,<sup>2</sup> we identified ways for the FCC to make the Lifeline program more effective and efficient. In addition to discussing the framework for designating broadband providers as Lifeline eligible, we also discussed the geographic scope of their Lifeline obligations once they receive such a designation. We also discussed the issues raised by USTelecom in its March 4, 2016 filing in this proceeding.<sup>3</sup>

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin G. Rupy".

Kevin G. Rupy

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<sup>1</sup> Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization*, 80 FR 40923, FCC 15-71 (released June 22, 2015).

<sup>2</sup> See, Comments of USTelecom, WC Docket No. 11-42, WC Docket No. 09-197, WC Docket No. 10-90 (submitted August 31, 2015).

<sup>3</sup> See, USTelecom Ex Parte Notice, WC Docket No. 11-42, WC Docket No. 09-197, WC Docket No. 10-90 (submitted March 4, 2016).

Ms. Marlene Dortch

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cc: Gigi Sohn  
Stephanie Weiner  
Eric Feigenbaum  
Trent Hardraker