



Your business
is our business.

REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

7852 Walker Drive, Suite 200
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770
phone: 301-459-7590, fax: 301-577-5575
internet: www.jsitel.com, e-mail: jsi@jsitel.com

April 26, 2016

Via Hand Delivery

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: WC Docket No. 10-90
Alpine Communications, LC Challenge to A-CAM V2.2
Competitive Coverage of Bernard Communications Company Inc.**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Alpine Communications, LC. (“Alpine”), JSI files the attached confidential version of the Alpine comments to challenge the competitive coverage contained in Alternative Connect America Cost Model (“A-CAM”) version 2.2 pursuant to the streamlined challenge process established by Public Notice.¹ A redacted version has been filed this date via the Electronic Comment Filing System. Alpine seeks confidential treatment as a Reviewing Party licensed under the Third Supplemental Protective Order for protection of Connect America Cost Model derived data.²

Please direct any questions regarding the filing to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

John Kuykendall
JSI Vice President
301-459-7590
jkuykendall@jsitel.com

cc: Katie King, Telecommunications Access Policy Division (two copies, confidential)
Margaret Avril Lawson, CostQuest Counsel, (via email)

¹ See Wireline Competition Bureau Releases Alternative Connect America Cost Model Version 2.2 and Illustrative Results and Commences Challenge Process to Competitive Coverage, WC Docket No. 10-90, Public Notice (rel. Apr. 7, 2016) (“Public Notice”).

² In the Matter of Connect America Fund, Third Supplemental Protective Order, DA 12-1995, rel. Dec. 11, 2012.

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)
) WC Docket No. 10-90
Connect America Fund)

A-CAM COMPETITIVE CHALLENGE

**COMMENTS OF ALPINE COMMUNICATIONS, LC
CHALLENGING A-CAM COMPETITORS PURSUANT TO PUBLIC NOTICE**

ALPINE COMMUNICATIONS, LC (Alpine) hereby submits these comments regarding the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC" or "Commission") April 7, 2016 Public Notice which published the preliminary determination of unsubsidized competitive coverage for rate-of-return Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier ("ILEC") study areas.¹

Pursuant to the *Public Notice* and paragraph 71 the Report and Order, Order and Order on Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking released on March 30, 2016 in the above-reference proceedings by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC" or "Commission"),² Alpine hereby challenges the competitive coverage in certain census blocks contained in the latest version of the A-CAM model (ver. 2.2).

I. BACKGROUND

Alpine Communications is a local exchange company providing quality voice and broadband services in the areas of Elkader, Elgin, Garnavillo, Guttenberg and McGregor in Northeastern Iowa.

The Company's Study Area Code ("SAC") is 351106 and its FCC Registration Number ("FRN") is 0003732633. As further outlined below, the Company maintains that the latest version

¹ See Wireline Competition Bureau Releases Alternative Connect America Cost Model Version 2.2 and Illustrative Results and Commences Challenge Process to Competitive Coverage, WC Docket No. 10-90, Public Notice (rel. Apr. 7, 2016) ("*Public Notice*").

² See *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket No. 10-90 *et al.*, Order, FCC 16-33 (rel. Mar. 30, 2016) ("*USF Reform Order*").

of the A-CAM contains errors that are significantly impacting the total number of locations eligible for support by excluding census blocks where Form 477 data erroneously indicates the presence of unsubsidized competitive providers. These errors in the A-CAM model significantly reduces Alpine's potential model-based support.

Through this petition, Alpine is not challenging all competitive overlap information within the A-CAM for its study area, as there are some unsubsidized competitors operating in a few of the Company's census blocks in compliance with the Commission's standards, but there are certain census blocks that contain erroneous competitive overlap findings, which Alpine is seeking to have corrected in the next release of the A-CAM.

II. DEMONSTRATION OF ERRONEOUS COMPETITIVE FORM 477 DATA

In regard to unsubsidized competitors identified in certain census blocks within Alpine's study area in the latest A-CAM, the Company submits challenges to the following providers based primarily on grounds that their broadband service offerings do not meet the FCC's criteria to be considered an unsubsidized competitor, including broadband speeds and prices.

As the FCC noted in its *USF Reform Order*, in order to be considered an unsubsidized competitor, a provider must offer broadband service that is at least capable of providing 10/1 Mbps service within a rate-of-return carrier's study area.³ However, as further addressed below, the identified competitive providers do not offer broadband service in census blocks within the Company's study area.

Bernard Telephone Company, Inc. (FRN: 0003773504)

According to the A-CAM, Bernard Telephone Company, Inc. offers [REDACTED] technology (technology code [REDACTED]) in census block [REDACTED] in Alpine's study area. The competitive overlap data in the A-CAM is based on FCC Form 477 data submitted by Bernard Telephone Company, Inc. (data as of June 30, 2015). As demonstrated in Attachment 1, Bernard Telephone Company does not offer any broadband service in this block in Alpine's study area. Accordingly, Bernard Telephone Company erroneously reported this block as one in which it

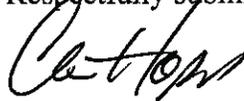
³ *USF Reform Order* at footnote 31.

offers broadband service and, in the next release of the A-CAM, this block should be not be shown as one in which Bernard Telephone Company offers service as an unsubsidized competitor.

III. CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, Alpine respectfully requests, pursuant to the *Public Notice* and paragraph 71 of the *USF Reform Order*, that the Commission find the evidence submitted herein to be sufficient to correct the erroneous exclusion of certain census blocks in the latest A-CAM such that Alpine can make an informed decision as to whether or not it wishes to opt for model-based support and to such other relief, as the Company may be justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. H. ...", written over the typed name "C. H. ...".

/s/

Filed 4-25, 2016

Attachments

DECLARATION OF KYLE MANDERS

I, Kyle Manders, am General Manager of Bernard Communications Company Inc. or the "Company". I have personal and direct knowledge of the representations made by Alpine Communications in its April 25, 2016 Comments to the Federal Communications Commission, Docket No. 10-90 regarding the Company's service area and competitive overlap. Based upon my personal and direct knowledge, I verify the truth and accuracy of the information contained herein. I verify that Bernard Communications Company does not provide broadband service as an unsubsidized competitor in Alpine's incumbent telephone service area. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on April 25, 2016

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle MA", is written over a horizontal line.

Kyle Manders, General Manager
Bernard Communications Company Inc.