



May 4, 2016

**Ex Parte**

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

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

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On May 2, 2016, Jonathan Banks and B. Lynn Follansbee of USTelecom – The Broadband Association, met with Stephanie Weiner, Legal Advisor to Chairman Wheeler and Carol Matthey and Alex Minard of the Wireline Bureau.

The subject of discussion focused on the Alaska Telephone Association (ATA) plan for Universal Service. USTelecom views the ATA plan for rural ILECs as an important step forward towards reforming the entire USF program, however as the parties discussed, USTelecom believes it is important that policy goals expressed in the Commission's USF reform orders commencing with the 2011 *USF/ICC Transformation Order* and continuing through the recent Order on rate-of-return universal service reform correspond with the proposed Alaska plan as it applies to both rural LECs and CETC support. Specific to this, USTelecom expressed an interest in more clarity surrounding obligations associated with support and concerns about support that is potentially duplicative or based on the discredited identical support approach.

Please contact the undersigned should you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "B. Lynn Follansbee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

B. Lynn Follansbee  
Vice President, Law & Policy

cc: Stephanie Weiner  
Carol Matthey  
Alexander Minard