



12 May 16

*Via ECFS*

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Ex parte communication – Connect America Fund (WC Docket No. 10-90)*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

With the recent announcement that the Commission will consider an order adopting rules to implement a competitive bidding process for high-cost universal service support from Connect America Fund (“CAF”) Phase II,<sup>1</sup> the Satellite Industry Association (“SIA”)<sup>2</sup> reiterates its support for a CAF framework that does not favor any one technology over others.<sup>3</sup> While SIA does not generally have a position in the CAF proceeding, SIA strongly supports the FCC’s longstanding policy of technology neutrality, which has served the public interest by fostering increased innovation and service quality and reducing costs to consumers. Innovations in the satellite industry, including high-throughput satellites, present important potential solutions for the problems that the CAF seeks to address. SIA supports a continued commitment to the longstanding policy of competitive neutrality in the current order.

---

<sup>1</sup> “FCC Announces Tentative Agenda for May Open Meeting,” News Release (May 4, 2016).

<sup>2</sup> SIA is a U.S.-based trade association providing representation of the leading satellite operators, service providers, manufacturers, launch services providers, and ground equipment suppliers. For more than two decades, SIA has advocated on behalf of the U.S. satellite industry on policy, regulatory, and legislative issues affecting the satellite business. For more information, visit [www.sia.org](http://www.sia.org).

SIA Executive Members include: The Boeing Company; The DIRECTV Group; EchoStar Corporation; Intelsat S.A.; Iridium Communications Inc.; Kratos Defense & Security Solutions; Ligado Networks; Lockheed Martin Corporation; Northrop Grumman Corporation; OneWeb; SES Americom, Inc.; Space Exploration Technologies Corp.; SSL; and ViaSat, Inc. SIA Associate Members include: ABS US Corp.; Artel, LLC; COMSAT Inc.; DigitalGlobe Inc.; DRS Technologies, Inc.; Eutelsat America Corp.; Global Eagle Entertainment; Glowlink Communications Technology, Inc.; Hughes; iDirect Government Technologies; Inmarsat, Inc.; Kymeta Corporation; O3b Limited; Panasonic Avionics Corporation; Planet Labs Inc.; TeleCommunication Systems, Inc.; Telesat Canada; TrustComm, Inc.; Ultisat, Inc.; and XTAR, LLC.

<sup>3</sup> See Letter from Tom Stroup, President, SIA, to Marlene Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket No. 10-90 (filed Dec. 29, 2015).

Sincerely,

/s/

SATELLITE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Tom Stroup, President  
1200 18th St., N.W., Suite 1001  
Washington, D.C. 20036

cc: Stephanie Weiner  
Rebekah Goodheart  
Travis Litman  
Nicholas Degani  
Amy Bender  
Matthew DelNero  
Carol Matthey  
Alexander Minard  
Stephanie Weiner  
Travis Litman  
Nick Degani  
Amy Bender  
Rebekah Goodheart