



May 16, 2016

**Ex Parte**

Ms. Marlene Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Wednesday, May 11, 2016, Malena Barzilai (Windstream), AJ Burton and Mike Saperstein (Frontier), Mary Henze and Brendan Haggerty (AT&T), Tamara Preiss (Verizon), Jeff Lanning (CenturyLink) and I met with Stephanie Weiner (Office of the Chairman) and Carol Mattey and Alex Minard (Wireline Competition Bureau) to discuss a framework for a CAF II auction in areas where state-wide broadband commitments were not accepted. We discussed the importance of avoiding mandating particular technologies or technological approaches to delivering voice and broadband. We urged the adoption of an approach that provides limited credits to bidders that can demonstrate that they can provide superior levels of service to the minimum requirements to deliver voice and broadband that the Commission establishes. Any bidder must be able to meet these minimum standards before qualifying to participate in the auction. We also discussed the importance of a follow-on auction for residual areas and/or locations that would not be covered by winning auction bids in this round and the need for flexibility in the design of that auction to reach the hardest to serve places. We also discussed the importance of putting in place a safety net with this order to ensure that consumers in the highest-cost areas of the country continue to receive at least the communications services they currently have access to as the auction process unfolds.

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jonathan Banks".

Jonathan Banks

c: Stephanie Weiner  
Carol Mattey  
Alex Minard