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May 19, 2016

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

Re: **Connect America Fund**
WC Docket No. 10-90
Written Ex Parte Presentation

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On May 18, 2016, the undersigned, representing the Wireless Internet Service Providers Association (“WISPA”), met with Amy Bender, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Michael O’Rielly, to discuss the proposed framework for competitive bidding in Phase II of the Connect America Fund (“CAF”) program.¹

I emphasized many of the points proposed in WISPA’s March 4, 2016 ex parte letter, which recommended a technology-neutral approach that prioritizes cost-effectiveness and the Commission’s performance criteria of speed, latency and data caps.² That proposal suggested different tiers within each performance criteria that would reward bidders that exceeded baseline criteria. I reiterated WISPA’s position that the Commission’s rules should include a fourth criterion – accelerated deployment – to encourage winning bidders to deploy more quickly so that consumers would be able to access broadband infrastructure sooner.

I further suggested that the framework describe relative weights for each criterion and exclude any specific numeration for bidding credits and demerits; instead, the Commission should invite public comment to facilitate industry engagement. Also, bidders should be permitted to vary, on an *a la carte* and project basis, the specific speed, latency and usage cap metrics, such that a bidder could offer 25/3 Mbps, 100 milliseconds of latency and 150 GB usage caps in its bid in one geographic area, and 50/5 Mbps, 50 milliseconds of latency and unlimited

¹ See, e.g., Letters from Stephen E. Coran, WISPA Counsel, to Marlene H. Dortch, FCC Secretary, WC Docket No. 10-90 (filed Nov. 23, 2015).

² See Letter from Stephen E. Coran, WISPA Counsel, to Marlene H. Dortch, FCC Secretary, WC Docket No. 10-90 (filed March 4, 2016).



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data caps for another geographic area in the same state. WISPA believes that *a la carte* selection of performance criteria will not be too difficult or complicated for bidders and that the reporting obligations will be sufficient to monitor recipients' compliance with the performance obligations.

I also stated WISPA's preference for a nationwide competitive bidding process rather than state-by-state allocation of funds that were declined by the price cap carriers.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's Rules, this letter is being filed electronically via the Electronic Comment Filing System in the above-captioned proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Stephen E. Coran
Stephen E. Coran
Counsel to WISPA

cc: Amy Bender