



NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

The Voice of Rural Telecommunications

www.ntca.org

February 16, 2011

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

Ex Parte Notice

A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, GN Docket No. 09-51; Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90; Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for Local Exchange Carriers, WC Docket No. 07-135; Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; CC Docket No. 96-45; High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337; Developing an Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime, CC Docket No. 01-92; Lifeline and Link-Up, WC Docket No. 03-109

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Tuesday, February 15, 2011, the undersigned, on behalf of the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (“NTCA”), together with Shirley Bloomfield, Chief Executive Officer of NTCA, and the NTCA members, state telecommunications association executives, and other individuals as listed in the attachment to this correspondence (the “NTCA Representatives”) met with Carol Matthey, Deputy Chief of the Wireline Competition Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission (the “Commission”) during two meetings at the Annual Meeting of NTCA at the Sheraton Dallas hotel in Dallas, Texas.

During these meetings, the NTCA Representatives discussed with Ms. Matthey the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking released February 9, 2011 (the “NPRM”) in the above-referenced proceedings. Specifically, they discussed the need for narrowly tailored reforms that will help ensure that high-speed, reliable, and affordable broadband becomes *and* remains available in rural America. The NTCA Representatives also discussed the rural, high-cost nature of the areas their companies serve; the challenges of deploying broadband-capable networks in such areas; the possible definitions of, need for, and means of achieving “reasonable comparability” between broadband services in rural and urban serving areas; and the need to take account of both external pressures and internal factors that may drive efficiency in determining the support needed by a given company to serve consumers. The NTCA Representatives also discussed concerns about whether the national broadband availability map that is scheduled for release today will adequately depict “unserved” areas to which funding might be targeted to enable broadband deployment, as well as the input and participation of state regulators that will be needed in the process of reforming universal service and intercarrier compensation cost recovery mechanisms. Finally, the NTCA Representatives discussed with Ms. Matthey the need to ensure that any reforms adopted as a result of the Commission’s proposals in the NPRM to reform existing universal service and intercarrier compensation mechanisms neither hinder future investment in broadband-capable networks in rural areas nor impair the ability of carriers to recover costs associated with investments made under current rules.

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

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Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, a copy of this letter is being filed via ECFS with your office. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (703) 351-2016 or mromano@ntca.org.

Sincerely,

/s/ Michael R. Romano
Michael R. Romano
Senior Vice President - Policy

MRR:rhb

Enclosure

cc: Carol Matthey

NTCA MEETING 1 WITH CAROL MATTEY – FEBRUARY 15, 2011

Sandy Vandevener, Five Area Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Terry Force, Blue Valley Tele-Communications, Inc.
Greg Hale, Logan Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
David Herron, West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative
Don Miller, Northwest Telephone Cooperative Association
Allen Russ, ATMC
Jim Dauby, PSC
Paul Schuetzler, Consolidated Communications
Kevin Hranicka, Van Buren Telephone Company, Inc.
Kelly Worthington, Western Telecommunications Alliance
Tom Conry, FMCTC
Rich Coit, South Dakota Telecommunications Association
Scott Stevenson, Telecommunications Association of Michigan
Charles Moses, Ohio Telecom Association
William Esbeck, Wisconsin State Telecommunications Association
Dwight Allen, North Carolina Telephone Cooperative Coalition
Shirley Bloomfield, NTCA
Michael Romano, NTCA
Tom Wacker, NTCA

NTCA MEETING 2 WITH CAROL MATTEY – FEBRUARY 15, 2011

Justin Miller, South Slope Cooperative
Tom Conry, FMCTC
Jean Thaxton, Randolph Telephone
Bill Squires, Blackfoot Telephone
Brock Johansen, Emery Telecom
Steve Loutzenhiser, Molalla
Jim Broemmer, Adams Telephone Cooperative
Kevin Beyer, Federal Telephone Cooperative
Scott Sherman, Hardy Telecommunications
Fred Johnson, Farmers Telecommunications
Jeff Leslie, ITS Telecom, Inc.
Denny Law, Golden West Telecommunications
Keith Larson, Dakota Central Telecommunications
Tom Wing, New Hope Telecommunications Cooperative
Raymond Henegan, Rock Port Tel. Co.
Jimmy Todd, Mutual Telephone Co.
Bill Franklin, Scott County Telephone
Nancy White, North Central Tel. Cooperative
Derek Bulawa, BEK Communications
Greg Sapp, Citizens Telephone Cooperative
Eric Cramer, Wilkes Communications
Frankie Cagle, Randolph Telephone
Shirley Bloomfield, NTCA
Michael Romano, NTCA
Wendy Mann, NTCA
Dennis McGarry, NTCA