

Alaska Telephone Association

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February 18, 2011

Ex Parte

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

Re: *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90, GN Docket No. 09-51, WC Docket No. 05-337

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On February 15th I met with Elise Kohn and on February 16th with Carol Matthey of the Wireline Competition Bureau. At both meetings I expressed my satisfaction that the Commission has recognized exceptional circumstances in Alaska by excluding it from the proposed \$3,000 cap on per loop support. I also opined that the proposed reverse auction scheme weighs against more sparsely populated areas, thus, generally disfavoring Alaskans. Finally, recognizing that "rural" is a relative term, I left copies of the attached photographs with each party. The photographs are of the Native community of Little Diomed, accessible by fixed wing aircraft only when the sea ice is solid. The Shenandoah Valley is described as rural. Little Diomed is not the Shenandoah Valley.

Sincerely,



Jim Rowe
Executive Director
Alaska Telephone Association

cc: Carol Matthey
Elise Kohn