

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

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

To: Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

The Rural Telecommunications Group, Inc. (“RTG”),¹ pursuant to Section 1.46 of the Commission's Rules,² hereby requests an extension of time in which to file reply

¹ RTG is a Section 501(c)(6) trade association dedicated to promoting wireless opportunities for rural telecommunications companies through advocacy and education. RTG’s members have joined together to speed delivery of new, efficient, and innovative communications technologies to the populations of remote and underserved sections of the country. Many of RTG’s members are competitive eligible telecommunications carriers. RTG’s members are comprised of both independent wireless carriers and wireless carriers that are affiliated with rural telephone companies. Each of RTG’s members serves less than 100,000 subscribers. RTG’s members are directly affected by universal service and intercarrier compensation issues, and RTG filed comments in response to the Public Notice.

² 47 C.F.R. § 1.46. RTG requests a waiver of the requirement in § 1.46(b) that requires motions for extensions of time to be filed seven days before the filing date. RTG was not made aware of the voluminous amount of comments and issues addressed therein until there were made available yesterday on the FCC’s website, only six days prior to the reply comment deadline. Without knowing the number and extent of these comments, RTG could not have known seven days prior to the deadline that additional time would have been needed. In view

comments in response to the many voluminous comments filed in response to the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC" or "Commission") August 3, 2011 Public Notice³ in the above-referenced proceeding. The Public Notice provided only five business days to reply to initial comments. However, over 100 parties filed comments, and in order to sufficiently review, analyze, and respond to these comments, additional time is needed. RTG respectfully requests a brief nine day extension of the reply comment deadline from August 31, 2011 until September 9, 2011.

RTG is committed to working with the FCC to develop meaningful, comprehensive reform of both the universal service and intercarrier compensation systems. Given the importance and complexity of this rulemaking, a nine day extension will enable a full and careful analysis of these issues without causing undue delay in the process, and result in a more complete record for the Commission's review.

For the above reasons, RTG respectfully requests a brief nine day extension of time to file reply comments.

Respectfully submitted,

RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.

By: */s/ Caressa D. Bennet*

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of these unusual circumstances, application of the rule would be contrary to the public interest and RTG has no reasonable alternative but to request a waiver.

³ Public Notice, *Further Inquiry into Certain Issues in the Universal Service-Intercarrier Compensation Transformation Proceeding*, WC Docket No. 10-90 *et al.*, DA 11-1348 (rel. Aug. 3, 2011) ("Public Notice").