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October 14, 2011

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

Re: Notification of Ex Parte, *High-Cost Universal Service Support*, WC Docket No. 05-337; *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90; *A National Broadband Plan for Our Future*, GN Docket No. 09-51; *Empowering Consumers to Avoid Bill Shock*, CG Docket No. 10-207

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On October 12, 2011, Michael T. Prior, President and Chief Executive Officer of Atlantic Tele-Network, Inc. (“ATN”), together with the undersigned (representing RCA — The Competitive Carriers Association), met with Rick Kaplan and Jim Schlichting of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau to discuss several issues of interest to ATN. Mr. Prior explained that reform of the universal service fund should be technologically neutral and avoid picking winners and losers. He stated that the Commission should not place arbitrary caps on the amount of support available to wireless carriers, but if the Commission insisted on doing so, it should make \$800 million available to such providers annually (with restrictions on participation by large national providers). Mr. Prior also underscored the need to make additional spectrum resources available; to that end, he suggested that future auctions should be designed to ensure meaningful opportunities for rural and regional carriers, for example by granting bidding credits to small carriers with demonstrated operating experience and by preventing large national carriers from warehousing spectrum. At the meeting, we further explained the need for the Commission to account for implementation challenges faced by small carriers when adopting new regulatory mandates, such as potential rules to prevent bill shock.

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Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions regarding these issues.

Sincerely,

/s/ Matthew A. Brill

Matthew A. Brill

cc: Rick Kaplan
Jim Schlichting