



NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

The Voice of Rural Telecommunications

www.ntca.org

November 16, 2011

Ex Parte Notice

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

Lifeline and Link-Up Reform and Modernization, WC Docket No. 11-42; Lifeline and Link-Up, WC Docket No. 03-109; Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Wednesday, November 16, 2011, Jill Canfield and the undersigned on behalf of the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (“NTCA”) met with Nick Alexander and Garnet Hanly to discuss the potential creation of a low-income broadband pilot program in the above-referenced proceedings.

NTCA expressed its interest in a trial program to explore stimulation of broadband adoption among low-income consumers, but emphasized the importance of ensuring that any such pilot program could be supported without diverting funds from other key universal service initiatives. NTCA also discussed the need to promote the involvement of small rural carriers to ensure that a truly representative sample of low-income consumers nationwide would be captured in any pilot program.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the rules of the Federal Communications Commission, 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