



March 9, 2012

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

Re: Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90; High-Cost Universal
Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This is to inform you that on March 7, 2012, Jon Banks and Robert Mayer with USTelecom, Hank Hultquist and Michael Lieberman with AT&T, Maggie McCready with Verizon, Michael Saperstein with Frontier, Jennie Chandra (via phone) and Bill Kreutz with Windstream, Jeff Lanning and Peter Copeland with CenturyLink (“ABC Coalition”) met with FCC staff in connection with the proceedings identified above. The FCC participants included Austin Schlick, Julie Veach, Steve Rosenberg, Patrick Halley, Amy Bender, Trent Harkrader, Marcus Mahrer, and Katie King.

During the meeting, the ABC Coalition members discussed the Commission’s process for evaluation of cost models for use in CAF phase 2 and asked the Commission for guidance with regard to its expectations on the timeline and sequence for decisions to be made. We urged the Bureau to make a decision first as to the appropriate flexible modeling platform, among those submitted, consistent with the requirements specified in the December 11, 2011 Public Notice. We indicated that we thought such a determination could be achieved in a timely manner before proceeding to questions related to network architecture and appropriate inputs.

The ABC Coalition also asked the FCC staff for guidance on which types of CostQuest activities are – or are not – appropriate for the ABC Coalition members to fund during the evaluation process. We specifically questioned whether it will continue to be appropriate for the ABC Coalition members to provide funding to CostQuest if the evaluation process extends beyond consideration of questions related to whether the CostQuest model can perform the functions set out in the Bureau’s Public Notice. We concluded by explaining that the ABC Coalition members have not committed to continuing to fund CostQuest’s activities indefinitely.

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Pursuant to Commission rules, please include a copy of this notice in each of the above-identified proceedings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jonathan Banks". The signature is cursive and fluid, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jonathan Banks

cc: Austin Schlick
Julie Veach
Steve Rosenberg
Patrick Halley
Amy Bender
Trent Harkrader
Marcus Mahrer
Katie King