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

Re: 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 a 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; Universal Service Reform – Mobility Fund, WT Docket No. 10-208

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On March 8, 2012, Steve Morris and I on behalf of the National Cable & Telecommunications Association (NCTA) met with Michael Steffen, Legal Advisor to Chairman Genachowski, and Rebekah Goodheart of the Wireline Competition Bureau regarding the above-referenced proceedings. Specifically, we discussed originating access charges for VoIP-PSTN traffic.¹ On the same day, James Assey of NCTA spoke by phone with Chairman Genachowski's Chief of Staff Zac Katz about the same issue.

We explained that cable VoIP providers, either directly as competitive LECs or through affiliated or partner competitive LECs, have tariffed and assessed intrastate originating access rates and that they will lose millions of dollars in revenue annually as a result of the Commission in the *CAF Order* reducing these rates to the interstate access level.² Furthermore, these originating access rate reductions resulted in no offsetting cost reductions, unlike reductions to terminating access rates, which were offset by corresponding reductions in payments to other LECs to terminate traffic.

¹ “VoIP-PSTN traffic” is defined by the Commission as traffic that originates and/or terminates in Internet Protocol (IP) format and that is exchanged over public switched telephone network (PSTN) facilities between a local exchange carrier (LEC) and another carrier in Time-Division Multiplexing (TDM) format. *Connect America Fund, et al.*, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 07-135, 05-337, 03-109, GN Docket No. 09-51, CC Docket Nos. 01-92, 96-45, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 11-161, at ¶ 940 (rel. Nov. 18, 2011) (*CAF Order*).

² *CAF Order* at ¶¶ 933, 944, 961.

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We also discussed the letter that NCTA jointly filed with Cbeyond, Earthlink, Frontier, Integra Telecom, NTCA, tw telecom, and Windstream.³ We noted that the entities signing on to that letter agree that originating intrastate access charges should be available to all VoIP-PSTN traffic on an equal basis and consistent with the treatment of non-VoIP-PSTN traffic, pending final action by the Commission on originating access charges in the *CAF Order* further notice of proposed rulemaking. Such an approach is consistent with the general policy of prospective parity for TDM and IP-based VoIP-PSTN traffic established in the *CAF Order*, which NCTA consistently has supported.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jennifer K. McKee

Jennifer K. McKee

cc: M. Steffen
R. Goodheart
Z. Katz

³ Letter from Kathleen Q. Abernathy, Frontier, *et al.*, to Marlene H. Dortch, Federal Communications Commission, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 07-135, 05-337, 03-109, GN Docket No. 09-51, CC Docket Nos. 01-92, 96-45, Attach. (Mar. 8, 2012).