

**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
)	
Universal Service Reform – Mobility Fund)	WT Docket No. 10-208

To the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau:

REPLY COMMENTS OF WINDY CITY CELLULAR, LLC

Windy City Cellular, LCC (“WCC”) submits these reply comments supporting its Petition for Waiver (“Petition”).¹ There is no opposition to the Petition. Indeed, numerous entities have filed either comments or letters of support urging the Federal Communications Commission (“Commission”) to grant the Petition, based on the critical nature of the WCC service: the City of Adak (local government for the island of Adak); the Alaska Congressional Delegation (including Sen. Mark Begich, Sen. Lisa Murkowski, and Rep. Don Young); The Aleut Corporation (a for-profit

¹ See Connect America Fund et al., WC Docket No. 10-90 et al., Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 11-161, 26 FCC Rcd 17663, (2011) (“*USF/ICC Transformation Order*”). The Interim Support for Remote Areas in Alaska rule is to be codified at 47 C.F.R. § 54.307(e)(v). WCC requested a waiver of the \$3,000 annual cap on interim USF support adopted by the Commission as part of the *USF/ICC Transformation Order*. (See ¶ 508).

corporation with over 3,000 Alaska Native shareholders primarily of Aleut descent which owns a number of subsidiary companies operating on Adak Island); the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (operator of a critical base in Adak that serves as a hub for all work in the Aleutian Island chain involving hundreds of researchers, technicians and crew); The Marine Exchange (a non-profit operator of a comprehensive vessel tracking network throughout Alaska, including a critical receiving site in Adak); Icicle Seafoods, Inc. (a fishing and seafood company that is one of the primary employers in the Adak area); the Adak Community Development Center (a non-profit developer of seafood harvesting and processing infrastructure for the community of Adak); the Eastern Aleutian Tribes (a non-profit tribal health organization servicing all the tribal and non-tribal members of the Adak community); and Alexicon Telecommunications Consulting (provider of professional management, financial and regulatory services to a variety of small rate-of-return Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers who serve diverse geographical areas characterized by rural, insular or Native American Tribal Lands).

GCI, which provides wireless service to the downtown area of Adak Island under the name Alaska Wireless, filed comments that neither oppose nor support WCC's request for waiver. Instead, GCI raises issues that go beyond the merits of WCC's individual Petition under the factors set forth under the *USF/ICC Transformation Order*. WCC requests that the Bureau not slow down consideration of the WCC Petition based on the GCI comments or any other issues that are outside the scope of WCC's Petition.

Without a waiver, WCC will be forced to shut down all operations on July 1, leaving entire portions of Adak completely without wireless service. It is undisputed that WCC is the only entity that serves Adak Island beyond the downtown area.² WCC provides crucial coverage

² See GCI Comments at 2 (acknowledging that "Windy City has a larger coverage boundary.").

to parts of the Adak area that include maritime locations and in the Aleutian wilderness.

Wireless coverage in these areas is necessary to support the many government and research activities that occur outside of the downtown area, as well as to ensure that subsistence hunters and fishermen and others who are traveling beyond downtown Adak have wireless access, particularly in times of an emergency. Without WCC, this important coverage will be lost.

Given the impending July 1 service termination date, and in light of the Commission's discontinuation rules, WCC will have no other choice but to alert its customers of the potential shut down of service within the next 7-10 days.³ For the reasons set forth in the Petition, and as set forth in WCC's subsequently filed notices of ex parte and other submissions,⁴ WCC requests an expeditious decision.

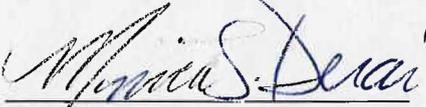
³ See 47 C.F.R. § 63.71.

⁴ See Letter from Monica S. Desai, Counsel, Windy City Cellular, LLC, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Notice of Ex Parte in WC Docket No. 10-90 *et al.*, dated April 6, 2012; *see also* Letter from Monica S. Desai, Counsel, Windy City Cellular, LLC, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Supplement in WC Docket No. 10-90 *et al.*, dated April 6, 2012; *see also* Letter from Monica S. Desai, Counsel, Windy City Cellular, LLC, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Notice of Ex Parte in WC Docket No. 10-90 *et al.*, dated April 9, 2012; *see also* Letter from Monica S. Desai, Counsel, Windy City Cellular, LLC, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Response to Request for Additional Information and Supplement in WC Docket No. 10-90 *et al.*, dated April 12, 2012; *see also* Letter from Monica S. Desai, Counsel, Windy City Cellular, LLC, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Notice of Ex Parte and Supplement in WC Docket No. 10-90 *et al.*, dated May 4, 2012; *see also* Letter from Monica S. Desai, Counsel, Windy City Cellular, LLC and Adak Eagle Enterprises, LLC, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Notice of Ex Parte in WC Docket No. 10-90 *et al.*, dated May 17, 2012; *see also* Letter from Monica S. Desai, Counsel, Windy City Cellular, LLC, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Notice of Ex Parte in WC Docket No. 10-90 *et al.*, dated May 21, 2012.

In order to continue providing its much-needed service to the remote island of Adak – and to avoid having to send notices of potential discontinuance to its customers – WCC respectfully requests that its waiver be granted in May or early June.

Respectfully submitted,

Windy City Cellular, LLC

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