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Gary Pierce  
Chairman  
(602) 542-3933

**ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION**

August 7, 2012

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW,  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *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 a Unified Inter-carrier 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 Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

I write in support of CenturyLink's June 26, 2012 Petition for Waiver (CAF Waiver) that was filed with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in the above-referenced dockets. As you know, the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) shares the FCC's desire to expand broadband in Arizona. I believe granting CenturyLink's CAF Waiver will facilitate that objective.

On March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011, the ACC approved a merger between Qwest Corporation and CenturyLink. As part of that proceeding, CenturyLink committed to invest at least \$70 million in broadband infrastructure in Arizona before January 1, 2016. On July 24, 2012, CenturyLink informed the ACC that it has accepted \$509,175 of its eligible funding for Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase I support for 2012 to deploy broadband in Arizona. CenturyLink also informed the ACC that would expend an estimated \$13.2 million more deploying broadband infrastructure in Arizona if its CAF Waiver is approved by the FCC. CenturyLink's request addresses problems with relying solely on the National Broadband Map ("NBM") to ascertain areas served by Wireless Internet Service Providers in Arizona.

I believe these funding commitments by CenturyLink to deploy broadband in Arizona through the CAF are significant, especially since they are incremental and in addition to the \$70 million funding commitment CenturyLink made during the ACC's review of its merger application. I encourage the FCC to expeditiously grant the CAF Waiver so that CenturyLink may begin the much needed work of expanding broadband infrastructure in Arizona.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Pierce".

Gary Pierce  
Chairman

cc

Commissioner Bob Stump  
Commissioner Sandra D. Kennedy  
Commissioner Paul Newman  
Commissioner Brenda Burns

Ernest Johnson  
Janice Alward  
Steve Olea  
Lynn Farmer