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VIA ECFS

EX PARTE

August 20, 2012

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *WC Docket No. 10-90, Connect America Fund; GN Docket No. 09-51, National Broadband Plan for our Future; WC Docket No. 07-135, Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for Local Exchange Carriers; WC Docket No. 05-337, High-Cost Universal Service Support; CC Docket No. 01-92, Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime; CC Docket No. 96-45, Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service; Special Access Rates for Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers, WC Docket No. 05-25*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On August 16, 2012, Eric Einhorn and I, from Windstream Corporation (“Windstream”), met with Commissioner Ajit Pai, and his staff members Matthew Berry, Nicholas Degani, and Jeremy Pederson. The Windstream representatives briefed Commissioner Pai and his staff on Windstream’s business and overall policy priorities. The parties generally discussed Windstream’s views on universal service and intercarrier compensation reform, and the conversation was consistent with Windstream’s past filings on these topics.¹ The parties also

¹ See, e.g., Letter from Jennie B. Chandra, Windstream, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 07-135, 05-337, 03-109, GN Docket No. 09-51, CC Docket Nos. 01-92, 96-45 (April 19, 2012) (discussing intercarrier compensation treatment of VoIP-PSTN traffic); Comments of Windstream Communications on Sections XVII.L-R, Inc., WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 07-135, 05-337, 03-109, GN Docket No. 09-51, CC Docket Nos. 01-92, 96-45, WT Docket No. 10-208 (February 24, 2012) (responding to Commission’s proposals and questions regarding intercarrier compensation reform); Comments of Windstream Communications on Sections XVII.A-K, Inc., WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 07-135, 05-337, 03-109, GN Docket No. 09-51, CC Docket Nos. 01-92, 96-45, WT Docket No. 10-208, at 16-32 (January 18, 2012) (noting that Connect America Fund Phase II for price cap carriers should incorporate a viable model, a targeted and efficient competitive bidding process, and alignment of support and obligations).

briefly discussed Windstream's views on special access reform, consistent with Windstream's recent filings on the subject.²

Please feel free contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Malena F. Barzilai

Malena F. Barzilai

cc: Commissioner Ajit Pai
Matthew Berry
Nicholas Degani
Jeremy Pederson

² See, e.g., Letter from Malena F. Barzilai, Windstream, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket No. 05-25 (July 16, 2012); Letter from Malena F. Barzilai, Windstream, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket No. 05-25, WCB/Pricing Docket No. 12-06 (June 20, 2012).