



September 10, 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 Thursday, September 6, 2012, Jon Banks and Robert Mayer with USTelecom, Mary Henze and Michael Lieberman with AT&T, Maggie McCready with Verizon, Michael Saperstein with Frontier, Eric Einhorn with Windstream, Michael Skrivan with FairPoint Communications, Kevin Kastor with Consolidated Communications, and Jeff Lanning with CenturyLink (“Coalition”) met with FCC staff in connection with the proceedings identified above. The FCC participants included Carol Matthey, Julie Veach, Patrick Halley, Amy Bender, Trent Harkrader, Ryan Yates, Joseph Cavender, and David Zesiger.

The Coalition members discussed the crucial importance of expanding broadband deployment in rural areas and reiterated the Commission’s finding that over 80% of households without broadband service are located in areas served by price cap carriers. We encouraged the Commission to grant Century and Windstream’s pending petitions, and explained our views regarding how, to the extent necessary, a second round of interim support should proceed and how to use undistributed funds from round one. We noted that interim support is not a viable long-term funding mechanism to support broadband networks in areas where no private business case exists to provide service. We discussed eligibility criteria related to disqualifying geographic areas and the need to harmonize broadband service requirements and funding eligibility requirements. The Coalition members suggested that the \$775 per location requirement be supplemented with a second-mile fiber option. Finally, the group urged the Commission to retain the 2012 regression approach to distributing interim funding and uphold the budget established in the USF/ICC Transformation Order.

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September 10, 2012
Page 2 of 2

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert L. Mayer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being the most prominent.

Robert Mayer
Vice President, Industry and State Affairs

cc: Carol Matthey
Julie Veach
Patrick Halley
Amy Bender
Trent Harkrader
Ryan Yates
Joseph Cavender
David Zesiger