



**CALIFORNIA
HOSPITAL
ASSOCIATION**

*Providing Leadership in
Health Policy and Advocacy*

October 12, 2012

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors

The California Hospital Association respectfully requests your consideration of Eric Brown, Chief Executive Officer of the California Telehealth Network, to become a member of the Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors. Mr. Brown would be an excellent choice for the seat to represent rural health care providers that are eligible to receive supported services pursuant to §54.601.

Mr. Brown is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the California Telehealth Network (CTN) which, under his leadership has become the largest FCC Rural Health Care Pilot Program participant. He has considerable experience deploying, managing and operating broadband networks in rural and urban communities. The California Hospital Association has been involved with the CTN from inception, and has observed Mr. Brown as he has worked tirelessly to create and expand broadband access to health care providers in rural areas of California. California has significant expanses of rural area (a fact not known to many), and Mr. Brown and the CTN are making inroads in bringing medical-grade broadband access to doctors, clinics and hospitals in the rural and underserved areas of the state. The California Hospital Association, as a major healthcare-provider constituent of the CTN, and as a member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee, fully supports Mr. Brown's nomination for the rural health care provider seat on the USAC Board, as do all CTN stakeholder organizations which include public agencies, private foundations, and health care stakeholder organizations focused on utilizing broadband to improve access to health care in rural communities.

We appreciate your consideration of this request to appoint Mr. Eric Brown to the rural health care provider seat on the Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lois M. Suder".

Lois M. Suder
Executive Vice President
Chief Operating Officer