

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

In the matter of)
)
Request for Comment on Areas Shown as) WC Docket No. 10-90
Unservd on the National Broadband Map for)
Connect America Phase I Incremental Support)
)

COMMENTS OF COX COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Cox Communications, Inc. (“Cox”), by its attorneys, hereby submits its comments in response to the Commission’s *Public Notice* concerning areas shown as unserved on the National Broadband Map (the “Map”) for purposes of Connect American Phase I incremental support.¹

I. Submission of List of Census Blocks Served by Cox

With these comments, Cox submits a list of census blocks that are shown on the Map as unserved, but that actually are served in whole or in part by Cox. In each of these census blocks, Cox provides broadband Internet access service that provides speeds of at least 3 Mbps downstream and 768 kbps upstream, makes that service generally available to the public within the census block or a portion thereof and advertises the availability of that service. All of these census blocks are served using Cox’s own facilities, and none of the facilities was constructed using support from either the Broadband Initiatives Program or the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

¹ Wireline Competition Bureau Updates the List of Potentially Unserved Census Blocks in Price Cap Areas and Extends the Deadline for Comment on the List, *Public Notice*, WC Docket No. 10-90, DA 12-2001 (rel. Dec. 10, 2012) (the “*Public Notice*”). The *Public Notice* superseded an earlier request for comment in light of the updated map. *Id.* at 1; see Wireline Competition Bureau Seeks Comments on Areas Shown as Unserved on the National Broadband Map for Connect America Phase I Incremental Support, *Public Notice*, WC Docket No. 10-90, DA 12-1961 (rel. Dec. 5, 2012).

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

The list of census blocks is attached as Exhibit A to the confidential version of these comments in electronic form, as requested in the *Public Notice*. It also is being provided electronically to the members of the Commission staff identified in the *Public Notice*.

Cox urges the Commission to regularly request updated information on which census blocks are served or partially served, as it has in the *Public Notice*, and to accept additional information as it becomes available to broadband providers. It is important to ensure that the Commission maintains up-to-date information as service areas evolve and carriers develop more detailed information on their service areas.

II. Appropriate Determination of Unserved Areas.

Cox notes two issues concerning determination of areas that are unserved and eligible for support that the Commission should address: The extent to which service is possible in such areas and the extent to which support should be extended to census blocks that are partially served.

First, Cox's review of the Commission's list of unserved census blocks indicates that many of the unserved areas are, in practice, unservable. For instance, in states like Louisiana there are significant areas that are swampland, where nobody lives or operates a business, and where it is impracticable to provide service even if anyone did live in those locations. Cox suggests that the Commission should seek to identify such areas to ensure that carriers receiving support do not claim to be serving addresses in those areas to minimize the need for additional policing of the use of high cost support funds.

Second, Cox supports the Commission's proposal in the Phase II public notice, which would limit eligibility to census blocks that are completely unserved, and that proposal should be

adopted for Phase I as well.² Service to any area within a census block (a geographic unit that tends to be relatively small, and smaller than a census tract) generally is indicative that the census block can be served economically, and typically extension of lines to additional customers within a census block is feasible once service is established in the block. At the very least, the Commission should refrain from providing subsidies in partially served areas until it decides its policy on such areas for the longer-term Phase II support program.

Respectfully submitted,

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² See “Wireline Competition Bureau Seeks Comment on Procedures Relating to Areas Eligible for Funding and Election to Make a Statewide Commitment in Phase II of the Connect America Fund,” *Public Notice*, WC Docket No. 10-90, DA 12-2075 (rel. Dec. 27, 2012), ¶ 21.

EXHIBIT A

List of Affected Census Blocks

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

[EXHIBIT REDACTED]

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Certificate of Service

I, Cynthia Porter, certify that on this 9th day of January, 2013, I caused a copy of the foregoing Comments of Cox Communications, Inc. to be served on the following by hand delivery or electronically:

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/s/

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