

Malena F. Barzilai  
Senior Counsel, Government Affairs  
Windstream Corporation  
1101 17<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Suite 802  
Washington, DC 20036

(202) 223-4276  
malena.barzilai@windstream.com



**VIA ECFS**

***EX PARTE***

February 25, 2013

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

Re: *WC Docket No. 10-90, Connect America Fund; WC Docket No. 05-337, High-Cost Universal Service Support*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On February 21, 2013, Eric Einhorn and I, from Windstream Corporation (“Windstream”), met with Michael Steffen, Legal Advisor to Chairman Julius Genachowski, Julie Veach, Chief of the Wireline Competition Bureau (WCB), and Carol Matthey, Deputy Chief of the WCB, to discuss the Connect America Fund (“CAF”) Phase I program.

Windstream emphasized that doing another round of CAF Phase I, rather than adding remaining incremental support to CAF Phase II, would best advance the Commission’s “interest in disbursing the available funds to bring robust broadband-capable networks to consumers and businesses as soon as possible.”<sup>1</sup> In addition, Windstream urged the Commission to adopt the proposals for modification of CAF Phase I that were raised in the FNPRM and advocated in joint comments submitted by USTelecom, ITTA, and the ABC Coalition.<sup>2</sup> If the Commission adopts the suggested modifications to the CAF Phase I program, Windstream would be able to bring 4/1 service to at least 100,000 locations that lack it today.

---

<sup>1</sup> See *Connect America Fund*, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, WC Docket No. 10-90, FCC 12-138, ¶¶ 7 (rel. Nov. 19, 2012) (“*FNPRM*”).

<sup>2</sup> See Comments of the United States Telecom Association, Independent Telephone & Telecommunications Alliance, and the ABC Coalition, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 05-337 (filed Jan. 28, 2013); Reply Comments of the United States Telecom Association, the Independent Telephone & Telecommunications Alliance, and the ABC Coalition, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 05-337 (filed Feb. 11, 2013).

Please feel free contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Malena F. Barzilai

Malena F. Barzilai

cc: Michael Steffen  
Julie Veach  
Carol Matthey