

April 18, 2013

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

Re: Ex Parte Communication in WC Docket 11-42

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Nexus Communications, Inc. (“Nexus”) has supported and continues to support the ongoing efforts of the Commission to reform the federal Lifeline program to weed out waste, fraud and abuse. One of the most effective reforms, however, has yet to be put into place: the National Lifeline Accountability Database (“NLAD”). The NLAD represents a crucial component of the reforms to the program because it will prevent duplicate support from being disbursed in the first place rather than making after-the-fact corrections. Nexus urges the Commission to launch the NLAD as soon as possible, as well as expeditiously work toward establishing a national database to determine an applicant’s participation in a qualifying program or income level. All ETCs should have equal access to databases of Lifeline-qualifying programs that are administered at the state level (*i.e.*, SNAP, Medicaid, LIHEAP, TANF).

The Lifeline program literally provides a lifeline to the poorest Americans, and continuing to reform the program will ensure its long-term viability. The program provides the means for low income Americans to stay in touch with family, employers and society at large, including emergency responders. This is particularly important in times of natural disasters such as Hurricane Sandy. Nexus has compiled testimonials from subscribers who depended on their Lifeline-supported cellphone services to obtain medical assistance, search for jobs and stay in touch with family in the aftermath of the hurricane. A sampling of these testimonials is available here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICTRe8uluIw&feature=youtu.be> . It is important that industry and the Commission be guided by these very real benefits in implementing further reforms. Introducing the NLAD and eligibility database as soon as possible will help to ensure that Lifeline funding is spent on eligible consumers who need it most.

Nexus looks forward to continuing to work with the Commission in its efforts to combat waste, fraud and abuse.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Danielle Frappier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Danielle Frappier
Counsel to Nexus Communications, Inc.

cc (via email): Radhika Karmarkar
 Garnet Hanly