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VIA ECFS

EX PARTE

May 3, 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 May 1, 2013, Eric Einhorn of Windstream Corporation (“Windstream”) spoke by telephone with Angela Kronenberg, wireline legal advisor to Commissioner Mignon Clyburn, and Rebekah Goodheart, acting wireline legal advisor to Commissioner Clyburn, about potential modifications to the Connect America Fund (“CAF”) Phase I program. Windstream urged the Commission to authorize a new round of CAF Phase I funding in 2013, noting that such a program would lead to deployment of robust broadband service to hundreds of thousands of unserved Americans in rural and high-cost areas.

In response to a question from the legal advisors, Windstream indicated that it would consider seeking more funding than it likely would be allocated if the Commission makes \$300 million available for CAF Phase I in 2013 and suggested that the Commission should make available the \$185 million in unused funding from 2012. Consistent with prior advocacy, Windstream asserted that a carrier should be allocated any 2012 funding it previously sought through a waiver request, in addition to the funding it would otherwise be allocated for 2013.¹

¹ See, e.g., Comments of the United States Telecom Association, the Independent Telephone & Telecommunications Alliance, and the ABC Coalition, WC Docket No. 10-90, at 27 (January 28, 2013).

Please feel free contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Malena F. Barzilai

Malena F. Barzilai

cc: Angela Kronenberg
Rebekah Goodheart