



POLICY & ACTION FROM CONSUMER REPORTS

May 20, 2013

VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

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

Re: *Ex Parte* disclosure pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206(b) in GN Docket No. 09-51 (National Broadband Plan), WC Docket No. 05-337 (High Cost Universal Service Support), WC Docket No. 03-109 (Lifeline and Link-Up), CC Docket No. 96-45 (Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service), GN Docket No. 12-228 (Inquiry Concerning the Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Capability to All Americans in a Reasonable and Timely Fashion, and Possible Steps to Accelerate Such Deployment Pursuant to Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, as Amended by the Broadband Data Improvement Act).

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On May 16, 2013, the following individuals (“Participants”) met with Commissioner Clyburn, and her legal advisors, Dave Grimaldi and Rebekah Goodheart:

Delara Derakhshani, George Slover, and Ellen Bloom, Consumers Union; Adi Kamdar, Electronic Frontier Foundation; Alix Mariko Webb, Media Mobilizing Project; Ana M. Montes, Utility Reform Network (TURN); Christopher Mitchell, Institute for Local Self-Reliance; Danielle Chynoweth, Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center; Hazeen Ashby, National Urban League; Jason T. Lagria, Asian American Justice Center; Jennifer Yeh, Free Press; Jessica J. Gonzalez, National Hispanic Media Coalition (NHMC); Joy Spencer, Center for Digital Democracy; Michael Medow, Allied Media Projects; Pedro Joel Espinosa Torres, Instituto de Educacion Popular del Sur de California (IDEPSCA); Sarah Morris, New America Foundation; Simran Noor, Center for Social Inclusion; Amalia Deloney, Brandi Collins, Steven Renderos, Center for Media Justice.

Participants underscored the importance of the Lifeline program for their constituents and shared stories from their local communities to illustrate their points. For example, one participant explained how the Lifeline program helps linguistically isolated individuals connect to their communities. Another participant noted that many diverse immigrant

communities lack access to basic phone service and would be unable to look for jobs, communicate with family, or use 9-1-1 services without the Lifeline program. Participants also reiterated the need to expand the Lifeline program to include broadband.

Participants thanked Commissioner Clyburn for her leadership on inmate calling rates and expressed strong support for a rulemaking on the issue.

Participants also suggested that the Commission look into the issue of making more data available to the public – including broadband adoption data, complaint data, and more granular data as to where ISPs provide broadband and at what speeds and prices.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Delara Derakhshani', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

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CC: David Grimaldi
Rebekah Goodheart