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August 29, 2013

Filed via ECFS

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

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.4 and 1.405, The Community Agency of Sanborn, Iowa, a rural competitive local exchange company hereinafter referred to as The Community Agency, files this statement supporting in part and opposing in part the Fiber-to-the-Home Council Americas' Petition for Rulemaking to Establish a Gigabit Communities Race-to-the-Top Program.

The Community Agency is established in four Iowa rural municipal communities and boasts an average majority penetration level of more than 75%. It offers a very competitive triple play to its citizens and survives on its exceptional customer service. Customers receive same day service for new offerings or repair. Since inception, this municipally owned agency has surpassed the incumbent, Windstream and all competitors. Fourteen years ago, the four municipalities served by The Community Agency, were able to overbuild their communities with a cable coax system and a fiber ring supporting the transport of services. This infrastructure can yet provide digital video, voice and high speed Internet of more than 25 mbps to the homes and businesses. The rural areas of the township are served now by a wireless system which is unable to capture the higher speeds of the homes within the town. The Community Agency is an ETC operating on very tight budget constraints and with very minimal Federal Universal Service Support. Its infrastructure will need to be updated, in the near future, in order to support ultra-high-speed gigabit service. Given its exceptional track record in serving businesses, hospitals, schools and citizens in rural Iowa, The Community Agency, as a municipally owned communications service, should be considered for future funding to support gigabit services to support its rural municipal communities in Iowa.

Conceptually, The Community Agency supports the proposal of the Fiber-to-the-Home Council ("the Council") and the diversion of the Connect America Fund monies, which have been rejected by price cap carriers refusing to build broadband-capable infrastructure in rural, high-cost area, to carriers willing to provide broadband service in these areas. However, The Community Agency believes that the smaller, more rural towns where fiber facilities are lacking should not be overlooked in this process in favor of ultra-high-speed gigabit service in a few select communities. Rather, in the event this Petition results in a

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rulemaking, the Commission should consider funding more projects of a smaller scope with smallerrural townsgiven priority.

Furthermore, The Community Agency opposes the Council's proposal that entities that are not Eligible Telecommunications Carriers ("ETCs") should be considered for funding. Section 254 is patently clear that a carrier must have ETC designation to receive universal service funding, and with the funds for the Catalyst Fund coming from redirected CAF funding, it would be impermissible for the Commission to give any reclaimed CAF funds to non-ETCs. Without ETC designation of the carriers receiving any funding, the Commission would not have any way to perform meaningful oversight of the CAF funding.

For the reasons asserted herein, The Community Agency supports in part and opposes in part the petition of the Fiber-to-the-Home Council Americas.

Respectfully submitted,

DJ Weber
General Manager
The Community Agency

cc: Heather B. Gold, President, Fiber-to-the-Home Council Americas
Thomas Cohen, Counsel to the Fiber-to-the-Home Council Americas

I, DJ Weber, certify that on, August 29, 2013, I served the foregoing statement by placing true and correct copies in the United States mail enclosed in sealed envelopes with postage fully prepaid, addressed as follows:

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Signature

Type or Print Name