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December 5, 2013

VIA ECFS

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

Re: **Correction to Notice of *Ex Parte* Discussion in WC Docket No. 10-90, WC Docket No. 05-337, CC Docket No. 96-45, WT Docket No. 10-208**

The Need for Expanded Deployment of High-Speed Broadband in Rural Areas

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On December 4, 2013, Deere & Company along with other representative companies and associations from the agricultural sector filed notices of separate ex parte meetings that were held on December 2, 2013 with the Commissioners offices and with staff from the Wireline Competition Bureau and Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. Subsequent to filing it has come to our attention that the ex parte notices incorrectly referred to the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) as the American Corn Growers Association (ACGA). The attached notice has been corrected to reflect the association as NCGA.

Any questions regarding this submission may be directed to the undersigned.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ electronically signed

Catherine Wang

cc (by e-mail):

Joyce Jones
Alexander Minard
Sue McNeil
Margaret Wiener
Audra Hale-Maddox
Eliot Moenner
Jim Schlichting
David Valdez

Enclosure

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Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Room TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Notice of *Ex Parte* Discussion in WC Docket No. 10-90, WC Docket No. 05-337, CC Docket No. 96-45, WT Docket No. 10-208

The Need for Expanded Deployment of High-Speed Broadband in Rural Areas

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On December 2, 2013, Mark N. Lewellen, Spectrum Manager, Deere & Company, Nick Tindall, Director, Government Affairs, American Equipment Manufacturers (AEM), Jason O'Flanagan, Business Development Specialist, AGCO, Bob Young, American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), Ethan Mathews, Manager, Public Policy and Regulatory Affairs, National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) and the undersigned outside counsel met with the staff members of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and the Wireline Competition Bureau listed in Attachment A to discuss support through the Commission's universal service fund and similar mechanisms for expanded high-speed broadband services in rural areas where most farming occurs.

This group of major U.S. and global agricultural interests explained why accelerated deployment of high-speed broadband across rural areas is essential to the U.S. agricultural sector. Specifically, we explained to staff how high-speed broadband services have become critical for maximizing yield from the land, managing costs and application of seed, fertilizer, and water, complying with environmental regulations, and enabling advanced telematics. All of these uses are fundamental to the precision agriculture techniques prevalent in modern farming today.

Given the importance of supporting U.S. and global food production, we urged the Commission to consider machine-to-machine broadband transmissions by mobile agricultural equipment in the field as well as fixed broadband operations on the farm in its proceedings to implement universal service support. Existing proposals do not adequately reflect the significant and growing use of broadband services by multiple farming devices in the field. Precision farming data gathered and reported in near-real time is used for advanced telematics and agronomic analysis that are integral to precision agriculture. Such data is also key to meeting requirements for federal crop insurance and

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December 4, 2013
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certain customer requirements. We discussed these points and further details set forth in the attached presentation.

For the above reasons, we urged the Commission staff to account for machine-to-machine broadband use in the above-captioned proceedings, consider funding for rural broadband as a top priority, and accelerate the agency's decision-making in this area.

Please direct any questions regarding this meeting to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

/electronically signed/
Catherine Wang

CC: FCC Staff on Attachment A

Enclosure

ATTACHMENT A

<u>Name</u>	<u>Bureau</u>
Joyce Jones	Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
Alexander Minard	Wireline Competition Bureau/TAPD
Sue McNeil	Wireless Telecommunications Bureau/OBC
Margaret Wiener	Wireless Telecommunications Bureau/ASAD
Audra Hale-Maddox	Wireless Telecommunications Bureau/ASAD
Eliot Moenner	Wireless Telecommunications Bureau/ASAD
Jim Schlichting	Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
David Valdez	Wireless Telecommunications Bureau/SPCD