

March 7, 2014

Chairman Thomas Wheeler  
Commissioner Migon Clyburn  
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel  
Commissioner Ajit Pai  
Commissioner Michael O'Reilly  
Jonathan Chambers  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20024

RE: Expression of Interest – Rural Broadband Trails, Connect America Fund,  
WC Docket No. 10-90

Dear Chairman Wheeler, Commissioners, and Mr. Chambers,

This letter is to express my interest in receiving funding from the Rural Broadband Expansion Trials announced at the January 30<sup>th</sup>, FCC Open Meeting. It is submitted on behalf of Aeneas Communications, LLC (FCC registration number 0009361080).

Aeneas Communications, LLC (Aeneas), an eligible telecommunications carrier, has served West Tennessee since 1996, with a particular sensitivity to the often-neglected needs of rural communities. Aeneas has a long history of firsts. It was the first company to bring Internet to rural West Tennessee; soon after its creation Aeneas became West Tennessee's largest Internet provider. In 1999, Aeneas became Tennessee's first and only Tennessee-owned, facilities based Competitive Local Exchange Carrier (CLEC), and in 2004, Aeneas became the first ISP & VoIP carrier over the largest municipal Fiber to the Home network in the country. To find out more about Aeneas and our products, please visit us online at [www.aeneas.com](http://www.aeneas.com).

It is Aeneas's goal to bring cutting-edge technology to rural West Tennessee. Aeneas is proposing to deploy FTTx high-speed broadband in the rural areas of the following selected areas:

- Hardeman County, TN
- McNairy County, TN
- Chester County, TN
- Haywood County, TN

The selected communities are extremely rural areas in West Tennessee with no current access to high-speed Internet over 3M x 768k. This lack of affordable, high-speed Internet options has a substantially negative effect on each county. It is a serious deterrent to bringing industrial development (and thereby new jobs) into many West Tennessee

communities. Due to economic unfeasibility, it is very unlikely that broadband services will ever be available in these areas. It is our hope that we can change the lives of the citizens of these communities through broadband Internet.

Aeneas wants to bring superior broadband services to these areas, allowing for higher speeds, symmetrical connections, and lower Internet costs. With a few anchor locations, top priorities of the project will be to improve communication in the sectors of Public Safety, Healthcare and Tele-Medicine, City Government and Public Works along with Education facilities and Community Centers. Additionally, Aeneas plans to take action to help better educate local economic developers on what Internet is available, something that is truly lacking at the current time. This will be accomplished by providing appropriate information and documentation to area Chambers of Commerce. In turn they will be able to use this information on any websites and/or promotional packets intended to reach out to businesses that may be interested in relocating to their areas.

With over a decade serving West Tennessee, Aeneas has expansive experience in the competitive telecommunications industry. We have relationships with many county governments, law enforcement offices, and schools in West Tennessee, such as The City of Henderson, Hardeman County Government, and Haywood County Government, along with Hardeman County Schools. We will be able to leverage these established relationships to more quickly organize within the community and reach new subscribers. These entities can provide letters of support if needed.

Rural West Tennessee is an area that needs our help to develop broadband Internet connectivity. With anticipated significant support to defray one time capital costs and monthly support in line with USAC high costs for rural telephone, Aeneas Communications, LLC, can and will bring broadband connections, and all their positive byproducts, into the lives of citizens in rural West Tennessee.

On behalf of Aeneas Communications I would like to thank the FCC for giving Aeneas the opportunity to submit this request. We are looking forward to submitting the actual proposal when directed to do so.

Sincerely,

Jonathan V. Harlan, CEO  
Aeneas Communications, LLC