VIA ECFS

March 7, 2014

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554
Attn: Wireline Competition Bureau

Re: WC Docket No. 10-90
Rural Broadband Experiment Expression of Interest for Price Cap Areas
Wilkes Telephone Membership Corporation

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Wilkes Telephone Membership Corporation ("Wilkes Telecommunications") hereby expresses interest in participating in the Commission's rural broadband experiments to provide robust, scalable high-speed broadband to unserved high-cost areas with additional Connect America funding.[1] Wilkes Telecommunications is an ILEC serving rural areas of North Carolina, and proposes deployment as follows.

Proposed Service Areas

The experiment will provide broadband service to a minimum of **196** eligible high-cost locations in unserved high-cost Census Blocks within this Census Tract:

North Carolina:	County	Tract
	Watauga	37189920702

Proposed Services

Voice and Broadband services with broadband transmission speeds of at least 100 Mbps downstream / 10 Mbps upstream and up to 1Gbps downstream/100 Mbps upstream provided over fiber to the home technology to these subscribers located in the identified census tract.

Funding

Wilkes Telecommunications estimates construction costs to be a total of approximately $950K based on knowledge of the area. The costs will be refined if and when a formal proposal is submitted. Wilkes Telecommunications would request initial capital funding for the project as

[1] *See Technology Transitions et al.*, GN Docket No. 13-5 et al., Order, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Report and Order, Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Proposal for Ongoing Data Initiative, FCC 14-5 (rel. Jan. 31, 2014).

well as proportionate ongoing funding to support the operational expenses of the network from the Connect America Fund to operate and maintain the system.

Wilkes Telecommunications expects service within the unserved high-cost Census Blocks to be offered within a year after construction starts.

Wilkes Telecommunications appreciates the opportunity to provide this non-binding expression of interest. Please contact the undersigned with any questions.

Sincerely,

Eric S. Cramer
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