April 9, 2015

Ex Parte Notice

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

RE: Universal Service Contribution Methodology, WC Docket No. 06-122; Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Wednesday, April 8, 2015, Shirley Bloomfield and the undersigned, on behalf of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association (“NTCA”), met with Commissioner Ajit Pai and his legal advisor, Nicholas Degani, to discuss issues presented in the above-referenced proceedings.

With respect to potential universal service contribution reforms currently being considered by the Federal Communications Commission (the “Commission”) and by the Federal-State Joint Board, we urged a thoughtful look at how best to ensure the sustainability and viability of important universal service programs and further raised points consistent with recent NTCA advocacy. See, e.g., Ex Parte Letter from Michael R. Romano, Senior Vice President-Policy, NTCA, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Commission, GN Docket No. 14-28 and WC Docket No. 06-122 (filed Jan. 13, 2015). With respect to the high-cost universal service program more specifically, NTCA encouraged the Commission to move forward not only with consideration of a voluntary model for those small rural carriers who might seek such an option, but also to redouble efforts on much-needed updates to the “baseline” foundational programs that enable universal service in areas served by all such carriers. See Ex Parte Letter from Michael R. Romano, Senior Vice President-Policy, NTCA, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Commission, WC Docket No. 10-90, et al. (filed Oct. 31, 2014).

Thank you for your attention to this correspondence. Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission’s rules, a copy of this letter is being filed via ECFS.

Sincerely,

/s/ Michael R. Romano
Michael R. Romano
Senior Vice President – Policy

cc: Commissioner Ajit Pai
Nicholas Degani

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