June 20, 2016

***Ex Parte* Notice**

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

> RE: ***Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90; *ETC Annual Reports and Certifications*, WC Docket No. 14-58; *Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime*, CC Docket No. 01-92**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Thursday, June 16, 2016, the undersigned on behalf of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association ("NTCA") spoke via telephone with Carol Mattey, Deputy Chief of the Wireline Competition Bureau.

During this conversation, NTCA expressed appreciation for ongoing efforts to provide greater clarity related to implementation of the recently released universal service fund ("USF") reform order in the above-referenced proceedings. NTCA raised questions, however, regarding the application of a budget control on USF mechanisms effective as of July 1, 2016, as indicated in a recent implementation/clarification order released by the Wireline Competition Bureau. In particular, NTCA observed that, while obtaining clarification as soon as possible regarding the calculation of the budget control would be helpful as contemplated by the text of the order, the actual language of the rule establishing the budget control prescribes a process providing for greater notice than just a few weeks or days prior to application of the budget control. NTCA encourages the Federal Communications Commission (the "Commission") to develop a clear implementation schedule that will enable all reforms (model and non-model) to take effect at approximately the same time to the extent possible, and to provide carriers with sufficient estimates, calculations, and other data in advance of any implementation deadlines to help inform upcoming USF support elections.

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:     Carol Mattey

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