



*Ex Parte Communication*

September 29, 2020

**Filed via ECFS**

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: *Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90***

Dear Ms. Dortch:

NTTA supports NTCA's concerns and proposed solutions expressed in its August 26, 2020 letter about the "resurgent budget control mechanism" (BCM) as to the adverse effects it will have on NTTA's members as they continue to deal with issues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and their efforts, as NTCA stated, "to keep Americans connected and to keep their networks running in the face of a national emergency." If allowed to operate as currently scheduled, the BCM will reduce universal service support to NTTA members during the 2020-2021 fiscal period by over \$968 thousand in total, or over \$161 thousand on average for each of the affected members.

Given that NTTA members, much like the rural LEC community in general, have been making significant efforts to ensure customers retain broadband service, including not disconnecting service for an inability to pay due to COVID-19 related financial difficulties many customers are facing, NTCA's request to waive the operation of the BCM "for the pendency of the COVID-19 national emergency" should be adopted by the Commission as soon as possible. This waiver may represent the difference between customers in Tribal areas retaining service or dropping into the digital divide, and the difference between the NTTA members' ability to continue providing service, or not.

Thank you for your attention to this correspondence.

Sincerely,

*Godfrey Enjady*  
President