



INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE & TELECOMMUNICATIONS ALLIANCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 19, 2010

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ITTA RESPONDS TO FCC 10th CIRCUIT REMAND ORDER

WASHINGTON – The Independent Telephone & Telecommunications Alliance (ITTA) issued the following statement on the FCC’s Tenth Circuit Remand order related to Universal Service Fund (USF) support for non-rural carriers. The following statement may be attributed to Curt Stamp, President of ITTA:

“It is troubling that nearly five years after having the issue on non-rural carrier USF support remanded from the Court, the FCC continues to refuse to fully address the issue and take the steps necessary to ensure customers in rural areas served by non-rural carriers receive adequate support and access to comparable telecommunications services as their urban counterparts. ITTA’s members serve some of the most rural and high-cost areas of the Nation, yet because of inequities in the non-rural mechanism, receive little, if any, USF support to provide the telecommunication services consumer and policy-makers demand.”

“As the FCC and Congress work toward the goal of making broadband available to all Americans, it is necessary to ensure that the underlying networks over which these services will be provided are adequately supported. The FCC’s Order does not make the changes in USF necessary to ensure support in all rural areas. We have long advocated that USF support should be based on the cost of providing service to a given high-cost area, not the characterization of the carrier providing the service.”

“We are disappointed that the FCC did not take the opportunity to make truly meaningful adjustments to USF to ensure adequate support for all consumers in rural areas, regardless of the carrier providing service. We are hopeful that further reforms to Universal Service will take into consideration the need to provide support to all rural and high costs areas.”

ITTA represents mid-size local exchange companies that provide a broad range of high quality wireline and wireless voice, broadband, Internet, and video telecommunications services to more than 24 million customers in 43 states.