



Advocates for Rural Broadband

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May 20, 2015

**Filed Via ECFS**

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**RE: Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90  
Preliminary Ex Parte Notice and Request for Additional Time**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

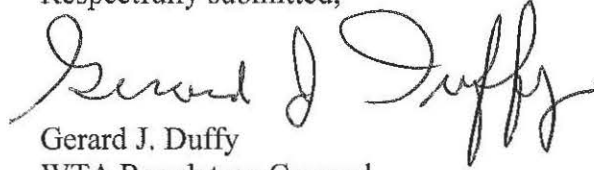
On Wednesday, May 20, 2015, Genny Morelli of the Independent Telephone & Telecommunications Alliance (ITTA); Jeff Dupree of the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc. (NECA); Michael Romano of NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association (NTCA); Jon Banks and Lynn Follansbee of the United States Telecom Association (USTelecom); Cheryl Parrino of Parrino Strategic Consulting Group (PSCG); Stephen Kraskin of the Rural Broadband Alliance; Mark Gailey of Totah Communications, Inc.; Bob DeBroux of TDS Telecom; Denny Law of Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative; Ryan Boone of Premier Communications (via telephone); Trey Judy and Jean Thaxton (via telephone) of Hargray Communications; Wendy Fast of the Consolidated Companies; Ken Pfister of Great Plains Communications (via telephone); Greg Lunsford of Comporium Communications; Keith Oliver of Home Telephone Company; Larry Thompson of Vantage Point Solutions; and Derrick Owens and Gerry Duffy representing WTA – Advocates for Rural Broadband (WTA) met with Carol Matthey, Suzanne Yelen, Alexander Minard, Ryan Palmer, David Zesinger, Doug Slotten, Steve Rosenberg, Joe Sorresso, Ted Burmeister and Katie King of the Wireline Competition Bureau to report on the status of the ongoing negotiations by a variety of rural telephone industry representatives looking toward the development of a comprehensive plan for future high-cost support for rate-of-return (RoR) carriers.

The rural representatives indicated they have been meeting in large and small groups and via conference calls at least once a week since April 16, 2015, and that they had reached agreement upon a significant number of issues. A more detailed *ex parte* notice describing these resolved matters will be filed on or before Friday, May 22, 2015.

The rural representatives also noted that other issues remain unresolved at this time for a variety of reasons, including disagreements between certain representatives and insufficient time to work out the details of certain proposals and options. The rural representatives therefore request a two-week extension of time – until Wednesday, June 3, 2015 – to continue to negotiate a comprehensive plan for future RoR high-cost support.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's Rules, this submission is being filed for inclusion in the public record of the referenced proceedings.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerard J. Duffy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "G" and "D".

Gerard J. Duffy  
WTA Regulatory Counsel

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