



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 30, 2016

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**\* \* \* PRESS STATEMENT \* \* \***

(Washington) The following statement was released today by ITTA – The Voice of Mid-Size Communications Companies and may be attributed to Genny Morelli, President of ITTA:

“The order released today by the FCC is the culmination of intense efforts by the Commission, working diligently with ITTA and other industry stakeholders over many months, to adopt meaningful reforms of the current universal service support mechanisms applicable to rate-of-return (RoR) carriers. The reforms adopted by the Commission should provide the RoR industry with needed stability, a realistic opportunity to continue to serve rural America, and the opportunity to expand the reach of their networks to bring the benefits of broadband to greater numbers of consumers in the most rural, highest cost areas of the country. We are especially pleased with the Commission’s decision to afford RoR carriers the opportunity to participate in a cost model-based USF support plan. ITTA and its members have worked with the Commission for well over two years to develop a model-based plan and we look forward to its implementation later this year.

ITTA is especially appreciative of the time and effort Chairman Wheeler, Commissioners O’Rielly and Clyburn, their wireline advisors, and the Wireline Competition Bureau have devoted to the reform process and their flexibility throughout our discussions. We look forward to continuing to work with all of the Commissioners and their staffs to implement the reforms adopted in the order.”

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*ITTA represents mid-size communications companies that provide a broad range of high quality wireline and wireless voice, broadband, and video services to residential and business customers in predominately rural areas across 45 states. For more information, please visit [www.itta.us](http://www.itta.us).*