



The Voice of America's Broadband Providers

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*** * * PRESS STATEMENT * * ***

(Washington) The following statement was released today by ITTA - The Voice of America's Broadband Providers and may be attributed to Genny Morelli, President of ITTA:

“Today the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) took an important step toward closing the digital divide by adopting changes to its Universal Service Fund (USF) High-Cost program that will ensure that more consumers living in rural America will have access to the same high-speed broadband services as Americans living in urban areas. The increased funding that will be made available to carriers that currently receive model-based support through the A-CAM program and the opportunity for additional carriers to participate in the A-CAM program will result in substantial numbers of rural consumers gaining access to the high-speed broadband services they lack today. Further, the additional support authorized for carriers that remain on the legacy rate-of-return support mechanism will afford those carriers the sustainability and predictability necessary to promote their continued broadband deployment.”

“ITTA has worked tirelessly over the past several years to promote the broadband needs of rural Americans. The changes to the USF High-Cost program unanimously adopted by the Commission today will go a long way towards meeting those critical digital needs, and for that reason ITTA enthusiastically supports the Commission's action.”

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ITTA represents communications companies that provide a broad range of high quality wireline and wireless broadband, voice, and video services to residential and business customers in predominately rural areas across the United States. For more information, please visit www.itta.us.