



February 11, 2014

Ex Parte Notice

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re:*Modernizing the E-rate Program for Schools and Libraries*
WC Docket No. 13-184

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Friday, February 7, 2014, the undersigned, on behalf of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association (“NTCA”), met with Patrick Halley of the Wireline Competition Bureau to discuss potential reforms to the Universal Service Fund (“USF”) Schools and Libraries Program (“E-rate”).

NTCA expressed support for modernization of the E-rate program, while emphasizing the need: (1) for thoughtful coordination of such efforts with other USF and other federal programs that today already support the deployment of scalable infrastructure and affordability of services across the country; (2) to take realistic, data-driven account of what services schools and libraries are making use of today; (3) to ensure that E-rate resources go as far as possible so that as many schools and libraries as possible can avail themselves of more advanced services; and (4) to take account of the true “total cost of ownership” associated with both deploying *and* operating advanced networks (especially in distant rural areas) as part of any assessment of the most efficient means of providing services to schools and libraries. NTCA’s arguments were consistent with its prior presentations in this proceeding. *See, e.g., Ex Parte* Letter from Michael R. Romano, Sr. Vice President-Policy, NTCA, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, WC Docket No. 13-184 (filed Feb. 10, 2014).

Thank you for your attention to this correspondence. Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the rules of the Federal Communications Commission, a copy of this letter is being filed via ECFS.

Sincerely,
/s/ Michael R. Romano
Michael R. Romano
Senior Vice President – Policy

cc: Patrick Halley