



July 27, 2022

VIA ECFS

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Notice of *Ex Parte* Meeting, WC Docket No. 21-476, Report on the Future of the Universal Service Fund

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Computer & Communications Industry Association (“CCIA”),¹ pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, files this notice of *ex parte* communication in the above-named docket.

On July 26, 2022, CCIA, represented by the undersigned and Matt Schruers, CCIA President, conducted a meeting with Justin Faulb, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Starks, by videoconference. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the forthcoming Report to Congress regarding the Universal Service Fund (“USF”). More specifically, CCIA and Mr. Faulb discussed potential reforms to the Universal Service contribution mechanism, which might be raised in the Report to Congress. For example, the docket in this proceeding includes the suggestion that “edge providers” be required to contribute. CCIA stated that an appropriate definition of “edge provider” in that context would be crucial to ensuring administrability.

CCIA also noted that any reform to the contribution mechanism should seek greater symmetry as between which services are assessed for contributions and which services receive USF support. The call participants discussed the effect of Congressional appropriations for broadband deployment, such as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, on the longevity of Universal Service funding.

¹ CCIA is an international, not-for-profit trade association representing a broad cross section of communications and technology firms. For 50 years, CCIA has promoted open markets, open systems, and open networks. CCIA members employ more than 1.6 million workers, invest more than \$100 billion in research and development, and contribute trillions of dollars in productivity to the global economy. A list of CCIA members is available at <https://www.ccianet.org/members>.



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Alternative mechanisms for funding USF, such as the connections-based and numbers-based approaches outlined in the USForward Report,² were also briefly discussed.

If you require any further information regarding this *ex parte* disclosure, please do not hesitate to contact me at stephaniejoyce@ccianet.org.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Stephanie A. Joyce
Stephanie A. Joyce
Chief of Staff and Senior Vice President
CCIA

Cc: Justin Faulb, Chief of Staff and Legal Advisor for Wireline and National Security, Office of Commissioner Starks (*via electronic mail*).

² Universal Service Fund – FCC Must Reform USF Contributions Now: An Analysis of the Options (Sept. 2021), filed February 14, 2022, https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/file/download/DOC-5fbd856c8c400000-C.pdf?file_name=USForward%20Report%20Sept%202021.pdf.