



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

June 22, 2016

The Honorable Rick Allen
U.S. House of Representatives
513 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Allen:

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase II funding AT&T received to expand broadband service in Jenkins County, Georgia. You request information on the amount of program support the carrier received to provide broadband service, as well as the recipient's required buildout requirements.

The Commission's universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to spur broadband deployment in unserved rural areas, maintain existing broadband service in high-cost areas, and ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21st century economy.

As you note, on August 27, 2015, the Commission authorized AT&T to receive approximately \$25 million annually in CAF Phase II support to provide broadband service at speeds of at least 10 Mbps downstream and 1 Mbps upstream to 67,402 homes and businesses throughout the State of Georgia over the next six years, including Jenkins County

The Commission established rigorous build-out and reporting requirements for all recipients of CAF Phase II funding, including AT&T, but the exact deployment schedule is determined by the carriers themselves. Support recipients must build to 40 percent of their required total number of locations in a given state by the end of 2017 and increase their build out by 20 percent each year until 2020. While providers do have some flexibility in meeting these buildout requirements, we do not allow for complete non-compliance with these deployment milestones. All support recipients are required, on an annual basis beginning this year, to report to the Commission and to the relevant state on their progress in meeting their broadband deployment obligations.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", written over a horizontal line.

Tom Wheeler