

TC-1 Resolution on the Federal Communications Commission’s Review of Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Auction Bidders Long Forms

Whereas the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) has completed its Phase I Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (“RDOF”) auction;

Whereas the FCC has awarded up to \$9.2 billion to help deploy broadband to areas in all 56 states and US territories;

Whereas the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (“NARUC”) supports the FCC’s efforts to deploy broadband services in their territories;

Whereas NARUC has an interest in ensuring the appropriate and responsible expenditure of Universal Service Fund (“USF”);

Whereas on January 19, 2021, a bipartisan group of Members of Congress sent a letter to then-Chairman Pai urging “[a]s responsible stewards of USF funds, we ask the FCC to redouble its efforts to review the long-form applications that will now be submitted.”;

Whereas the FCC will now commence review of RDOF winning bidders’ long-form applications; *and*

Whereas the States, as participants in the Eligible Telecommunications Carrier process, are committed to the FCC’s goals of encouraging deployment and responsible stewardship of USF funds; *now therefore be it;*

Resolved that the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2021 Winter Policy Summit, urges the FCC to closely scrutinize the long-form applications and subsequently filed technical, financial, and managerial information of provisional RDOF support winners to ensure that each provider does in fact have the technical, financial, managerial, operational skills, capabilities, and resources to deliver the services at the speeds and latency tiers they have pledged for every American they plan to serve, regardless of the technology they use; *and be it be further;*

Resolved that NARUC encourages the FCC to seek and incorporate opportunities for input into its RDOF long-form review so as to ensure the success of the program and to minimize the possibility of waste, fraud, or abuse of USF funds.

Sponsored by the Committee on Telecommunications

Adopted by the Board of Directors, Directors, February 11, 2021