



**Robert W. Quinn, Jr.**  
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July 24, 2012

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: *Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90; High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337***

Dear Ms. Dortch:

AT&T Inc. (AT&T), on behalf of its incumbent local exchange carrier affiliates, hereby declines to accept Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase I incremental support funding (hereafter, incremental support) at this time.

AT&T is in the midst of evaluating its options for further rural broadband deployment. As our Chairman stated last month, we are optimistic about AT&T's ability to get more broadband into rural areas, particularly as the technology continues to advance. However, until AT&T finalizes that strategy, it cannot commit to participating in the incremental support program, as it must by today's date. Other factors in AT&T's decision to decline incremental support at this time include the uncertainty as to how participating in this program will affect our continuing efforts to be relieved of outdated legacy obligations, as well as some questions about the potential scope of the service obligations that accompany this support. In recent days, we have had several productive conversations with staff about the incremental support service obligations and we appreciate staff's willingness to address our concerns about a number of those obligations. Unfortunately, as we have not completed our evaluation of rural broadband options, we cannot say at this time that participation in the incremental support program fully aligns with AT&T's overall broadband strategy.

We look forward to continuing to work cooperatively with the Commission and its staff on Connect America Fund matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert W. Quinn, Jr." in a cursive script.

Robert W. Quinn, Jr.

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### Proceeding

Name	Subject
05-337	In the Matter of Federal -State Joint Board on Universal Service High-Cost Universal Service Support. . . .

### Contact Info

**Name of Filer:** AT&T Services, Inc.  
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**Small Business Impact:** NO  
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