September 13, 2012

BY OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

President Michael R. Peevey
Commissioner Timothy Alan Simon
Commissioner Michel Peter Florio
Commissioner Catherine J. K. Sandoval
Commissioner Mark J. Ferron
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, California 94102-3298

Re: California Advanced Services Fund

Dear Mr. President and Commissioners:

The Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) Council Americas is a not-for-profit association whose mission is to accelerate deployment of all-fiber access networks by demonstrating how fiber-enabled applications and solutions create value for service providers and their customers, promote economic development and enhance quality of life. Over the past decade, telecommunications providers operating in rural areas throughout the country have determined that their future is dependent on the deployment of FTTH networks since only these networks use future-proof technology over which they can offer the full range of services their subscribers are demanding. Moreover, as FTTH networks are deployed, communities benefit from the innovation, economic growth, and increased social interaction that comes from access to these ultra-high speed networks.

Because the economics of FTTH network deployment can be more challenging in less dense areas, rural providers often need to access support from government agencies to help finance their builds. For instance, these providers have used funding from the U.S. Rural Utilities Service’s traditional telephone and broadband loan programs and the Broadband Initiatives Program to support FTTH deployments. From both a provider and consumer perspective, the value of government support is maximized if it used to build networks that are robust and durable. That is especially the case today with the increasing demands of consumers for access to video-based content and information distributed over the Internet.
Your Commission will soon review applications for new support pursuant to the California Advanced Services Fund. The FTTH Council encourages you to support projects that will bring to rural subscribers the great benefits of FTTH networks – benefits that urban subscribers are now receiving. It will be an investment in their communities for the long term.

Sincerely,

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President
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cc: Advisors
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Zenaida Tapawan-Conway (by email)