U.S. Court of Appeals Allows Wireless Resellers to Continue to Provide Lifeline Services to Eligible Tribal Lifeline Recipients

The National Lifeline Association is pleased that today’s decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit vacates and remands the FCC’s 2017 Order that would have eliminated wireless resellers from the Tribal Lifeline program and restricted that program to rural Tribal lands.

KENNETT SQUARE, Pa. (PRWEB) February 01, 2019 -- The National Lifeline Association is pleased that today’s decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit vacates and remands the FCC’s 2017 Order that would have eliminated wireless resellers from the Tribal Lifeline program and restricted that program to rural Tribal lands. The Court’s decision will allow wireless resellers to continue to provide Lifeline service to two-thirds of all participants in the Tribal Lifeline program.

NaLA looks forward to engaging with the FCC and all stakeholders going forward to ensure that the goal of preserving affordability for eligible program participants remains the primary goal of the program. The Lifeline program faces incredible challenges in 2019. Our hope is that this decision will provide the impetus for the Commission and all stakeholders to engage in a transparent and constructive manner so that Lifeline meets its full potential to bridge the affordability aspect of the digital divide.

NaLA would like to acknowledge and thank those who led our team that made today’s victory for Tribal Lifeline subscribers possible. These individuals include our attorneys, John Heitmann and Jameson Dempsey of Kelley Drye, and Kim Lehrman and Jose Cortes on NaLA’s regulatory affairs committee. We also want to extend our thanks to the Tribes and the team who represented the Tribes, as their participation in the appeal process was essential to the result achieved today.

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Contact Information
Jordan Majkszak
National Lifeline Association
http://https://www.nalalifeline.org/
4847340080

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