

July 21, 2016

Mr. Gary Widerburg Commission Administrator Utah Public Service Commission 160 East 300 South Heber M Wells Building, 4th Floor Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Re: Docket 16-999-07 - In the Matter of: the 2016 Universal Service Fund (USF) CAF ICC Review

Dear Mr. Widerburg

Pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") mandate in its docket <u>In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service</u>, CC Docket No. 96-45/CC Docket No. 00-256, Fourteenth Report and Order, Twenty-Second Order on Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 96-45 and Report and Order in CC Docket No. 00-256 (FCC 01-157) (released May 23, 2001) and in its docket <u>In the Matter of Connect America Fund, et al</u>, WC Docket No. 10-90, WC Docket No 14-58 et al, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 11-161) (released May 18, 2011), the FCC has adopted a requirement codified at 47 C.F.R. §54.314 that state commissions must file an annual certification with the Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC") and the FCC for rural incumbent local exchange carriers stating "...that all federal high-cost support provided to such carriers within that state was used in the preceding calendar year and will be used in the coming calendar year only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended."

Accordingly, Citizens Telecommunications Company of Utah (Exchange Carrier Study Area Code 504429), is a rural incumbent local exchange carrier that has previously been designated by this Commission as an eligible telecommunications carrier. Citizens Telecommunications Company of Utah is complying with the requirements of Section 254(e) and will continue to comply for the period January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 (the certification period) to be eligible to receive Federal USF. The Company certifies to the Commission that it will use all federal high-cost support provided to it only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended consistent with the principles of universal service 47 U.S.C. 254. This includes, but is not limited to, trying to meet the goal of the provision of services that are properly supported by the high-cost funds at rates that are reasonably comparable to rates charged for similar services in urban areas.

Citizens Telecommunications Company of Utah requests the Commission issue a certification before October 1, 2016 to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) and the FCC, pursuant to 47 CFR 54.314(a) that the Company is eligible to receive Federal USF and is in compliance with the FCC's order.

Any questions or notifications to this filing should be directed to Kirk Lee at 425-261-5855 or by email <u>kirk.lee@ftr.com</u> or me at 916-686-3588 or by email at <u>joe.chicoine@ftr.com</u>.

Sincerely,

/s/ Joe Chicoine

Joe Chicoine Sr. Manager, Regulatory Affairs

cc: Kirk Lee, Frontier