Brian W. Burnett (3772) Callister Nebeker & McCullough 10 East South Temple, Suite 900 Salt Lake City, UT 84133 Telephone: 801-530-7428

Telephone: 801-530-7428 Facsimile: 801-364-9127 <u>brianburnett@cnmlaw.com</u>

Attorney for Cricket Communications, Inc.

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

)	
IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)	Docket No. 12-2551-01
OF CRICKET COMMUNICATIONS, INC.)	
FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE)	
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER IN)	
THE STATE OF UTAH)	
)	

Direct Testimony of

Julie S. Buechler

1		DIRECT TESTIMONY OF JULIE S. BUECHLER
2	Q.	WOULD YOU PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS?
3	A.	Yes. My name is Julie S. Buechler and my business address is 5887 Copley Drive, San
4		Diego, California, 92111.
5	Q.	ON WHOSE BEHALF ARE YOU TESTIFYING?
6	A.	I am testifying on behalf of Cricket Communications, Inc. which I will refer to as
7		"Cricket" in the rest of my testimony.
8	Q.	WHERE ARE YOU EMPLOYED?
9	A.	I am employed by Cricket Communications, Inc.
10	Q.	WHAT POSITION DO YOU HOLD WITH YOUR EMPLOYER?
11	A.	I am the Manager of Government Programs in the Government Affairs Department.
12	Q.	WHAT IS YOUR EDUCATIONAL AND EMPLOYMENT BACKGROUND?
13	A.	I received my Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from San Diego
14		State University and my Juris Doctor degree from the Thomas Jefferson School of Law.
15		I have been a member of the California Bar Association since 1995. I was engaged in the
16		private practice of law for nine years, most recently with the law firm of Bobbitt,
17		Pinckard & Fields in San Diego, where my practice focused primarily on representation
18		of law enforcement personnel in both administrative and judicial forums. I assumed my
19		current position with Cricket Communications, Inc. in 2009.
20	Q.	HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED TESTIMONY AS PART OF AN
21		ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER ("ETC") DESIGNATION
22		PROCESS BEFORE OTHER REGULATORY COMMISSIONS?
23	A.	Yes. In all states where Cricket has received ETC Designation, I have provided pre-filed
24		testimony or verified statements as part of the petition process for ETC Designation.

25	Q.	WOULD YOU PLEASE BRIEFLY DESCRIBE CRICKET AND ITS
26		OPERATIONS?
27	A.	Yes. Cricket is a national provider of wireless communications services, both voice and
28		broadband, operating in 34 states and the District of Columbia and serving approximately
29		six million customers. Cricket provides high-value wireless services to a young and
30		ethnically diverse customer base with unlimited access to wireless voice and data services
31		for a flat rate without requiring a fixed-term contract.
32	Q.	WOULD YOU PLEASE PROVIDE MORE DETAIL ON THE OWNERSHIP
33		STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE OF CRICKET AND LEAP
34		WIRELESS, INC.?
35	A.	Leap Wireless International, Inc. ("Leap") is the parent company of Cricket; however, all
36		branding and marketing is done under the Cricket name.
37	Q.	WHAT ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES WITH CRICKET?
38	A.	My current position involves oversight of Cricket's effort to implement Lifeline service
39		availability to eligible customers in all of our markets nationwide through the processes
40		required for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier, or ETC, receiving low
41		income only support from the federal Universal Service Fund or "FUSF." When and as
42		such designations are obtained, I am also responsible for working with the Universal
43		Service Administrative Company, or USAC, with respect to compliance and
44		reimbursement matters, as well as any ongoing required state compliance filings.
45	Q.	HAVE YOU REVIEWED THE ETC APPLICATION AND OTHER
46		DOCUMENTS FILED BY CRICKET IN THIS PROCEEDING?

Yes.

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A.

48	Q.	DO YOU ADOPT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ETC
49		APPLICATION AS PART OF YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY?
50	A.	Yes, I do.
51	Q.	WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY IN THIS PROCEEDING?
52	A.	The purpose of my testimony is to demonstrate that Cricket satisfies the requirements for
53		designation as an ETC in the State of Utah within the areas proposed in its Application
54		and that the granting of this designation is in the public interest.
55	Q.	WOULD YOU PLEASE DESCRIBE CRICKET'S WIRELESS OPERATIONS IN
56		UTAH?
57	A.	Yes. Cricket is a telecommunications carrier that provides digital wireless services on a
58		common carrier basis, offering customers unlimited calling at flat rates without requiring
59		a fixed-term contract or a credit check. Cricket provides advance wireless service
60		("AWS") using its own CDMA network in and around Salt Lake City and northern Utah
61		pursuant to authorizations issued to it by the Federal Communications Commission, or
62		"FCC." Cricket has been providing service in Utah since December 2000.
63	Q.	WILL CRICKET BE USING ANOTHER CARRIER'S NETWORK TO PROVIDE
64		LIFELINE WITHIN ITS ETC DESIGNATED AREA?
65	A.	No. Cricket will rely entirely on its own network and is only requesting ETC designation
66		where its own actual coverage exists. Although Lifeline customers can use their phones
67		outside of the ETC designated area, Cricket is only requesting ETC designation where it
68		has actual coverage.
69	Q.	WHAT IS THE AREA IN WHICH CRICKET REQUESTS DESIGNATION AS
70		AN ETC?

/ 1	A.	Exhibit JSB-1, attached to this Direct Testimony, contains a map showing Cricket's
72		Radio Frequency ("RF") coverage or, as I will refer to it, actual coverage in Utah, which
73		are the areas in which Cricket seeks ETC designation. Exhibit JSB-2, attached to this
74		Direct Testimony, is a list of the wire centers, listed by Common Language Location
75		Identifier ("CLLI") codes that encompass Cricket's actual coverage area, also the area in
76		which Cricket seeks ETC designation to provide Lifeline. In other words, Cricket seeks
77		ETC designation in the areas where it has actual coverage within the wire centers listed in
78		Exhibit JSB-2.
79	Q.	IS CRICKET REQUESTING ETC DESIGNATION IN BOTH RURAL AND NON-
30		RURAL INCUMBENT LOCAL EXCHANGE ("ILEC") STUDY AREAS?
31	A.	Yes. As you can see from Exhibits JSB-1 and JSB-2 to this Direct Testimony, most of
32		Cricket's proposed ETC designated area falls within CenturyLink's study area, but there
33		are also some rural ILEC study areas that are encompassed by the proposed ETC
34		designated area.
35	Q.	IS CRICKET FINANCIALLY COMPETENT TO PROVIDE SERVICE IN
36		UTAH?
37	A.	Yes. As the 6 th largest wireless provider in the United States, Cricket clearly has the
88		financial stability to reliably provide ETC supported services in Utah. Leap is a publicly
39		traded company that does business as "Cricket." Cricket is not a subsidiary of Leap,
90		instead it is wholly owned by Leap. Since Leap is a publicly traded company, its
91		financial information is available to the public. Leap's quarterly financial report filed
92		with the Securities and Exchange Commission for the period ending on June 30, 2011, is
93		available online at:
94		http://sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1065049/000106504911000005/leap-

95		june2011q2x10q.htm. Lifeline is a service that Cricket provides to its eligible customers.
96		As of May 2012, Lifeline customers account for approximately 70,000 of Cricket's six
97		million customers.
98	Q.	IS CRICKET SEEKING HIGH COST SUPPORT FOR THE ADVANCED
99		WIRELESS SERVICES IT PROVIDES IN UTAH?
100	A.	No, it is not. Cricket is only seeking ETC designation in Utah for the limited purpose of
101		receiving low-income support for offering Lifeline service from the federal Universal
102		Service Fund.
103	Q.	IS CRICKET SEEKING TO ACCESS UTAH USF FUNDS?
104	A.	No.
105	Q.	HOW WILL CRICKET'S LIFELINE SERVICES BENEFIT UTAH
106		CUSTOMERS?
107	A.	Designating Cricket as an ETC will serve the public interest generally and the needs of
108		low-income customers in Utah, in particular. Cricket has specifically tailored its wireless
109		service plans to share the benefits of wireless telecommunications with underserved
110		customers who have been left behind by other providers. Cricket's plans offer unlimited
111		local calling, unlimited long distance calling and unlimited texting at affordable rates,
112		starting as low as \$35 per month, with the addition of unlimited broadband starting at \$45
113		per month, without the typical strings attached, such as credit checks, long-term
114		commitments, and early termination fees, that may otherwise prevent economically
115		disadvantaged customers from obtaining wireless services. With this foundation of
116		simplicity and affordability as its business model, Cricket has built a network covering
117		more than 95 million individuals in 34 states and the District of Columbia and is steadily

expanding into new communities where the telecommunications needs of consumers are

Docket No. 12-2551-01

119 not being met by existing providers. Cricket fulfills a critical role in the marketplace by 120 ensuring that many Americans who cannot qualify for, or afford, the services provided by 121 other wireless providers can still enjoy the benefits of *unlimited* wireless 122 telecommunications, including wireless broadband. Cricket's flat-rate, unlimited service 123 model is ideal for many consumers on a limited budget; other carriers often impose hefty 124 overage charges if consumers exceed their usage limit. Many consumers cannot even 125 qualify for service from other providers because of creditworthiness concerns or the 126 inability to commit to a long-term contract. Cricket's customers are not subjected to 127 credit checks, nor are there overage charges, because everything is paid in advance, 128 meaning that the bill is paid *before* service is provided to the customer. As a result, 129 Cricket's customer base of approximately 6 million customers is quite unlike those of 130 other wireless providers. Notably, approximately 80 percent of Cricket's customers have 131 annual household incomes of less than \$50,000 and 55 percent have annual household 132 incomes of less than \$30,000. In contrast, just 48 percent of other wireless carriers' 133 customers have annual household incomes of less than \$50,000. The usage patterns of 134 Cricket's customers are also distinct. Ninety percent of Cricket's subscribers use the 135 service for their primary phone (compared to an industry average of 50 percent), and 70 136 percent do not have a traditional landline phone service at home (compared to an industry 137 average of 25 percent). Cricket's customers also use an average of approximately 1500 138 minutes per month—more than twice as many minutes per month as the national industry 139 average. Cricket's Lifeline customers will receive unlimited text messaging and 140 *unlimited* local/national calling under all of the plans available to them. ¹ These figures 141 reveal that Cricket reaches market segments that other carriers have ignored, and its

See Exhibit JSB-3 to this Direct Testimony.

entrance to the online world. Designating Cricket as an ETC will improve its ability to serve these customers, and thus will serve the public interest. ETC designation in Utah will enable Cricket to offer appealing and affordable service offerings to low-income Utah customers to ensure that they are able to afford unlimited wireless services on a consistent and un-interrupted basis. Without question, pay-in-advance wireless services have become essential for lower-income customers, providing them with value for their money, access to emergency services on wireless devices, and a reliable means of contact for prospective employers, social service agencies or dependents. Designating Cricket to offer the services supported by Lifeline to Utahns who are otherwise unable to afford unlimited quality wireless telephone service promotes the public interest.

Q. WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ETC?

To become designated as an ETC, a carrier must be a common carrier, capable of and committed to offering specified supported services either through its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resold facilities, advertise these services, and describe in detail the geographic service area for which it seeks designation. In addition, where an applicant seeks designation in areas served by a rural ILEC the designation must be consistent with the public interest. If consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity, the Commission shall designate additional ETCs in areas served by non-rural ILECs.

Q. DOES CRICKET SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS FOR ETC DESIGNATION IN UTAH?

A. Yes. Cricket satisfies all of the requirements for ETC designation in Utah. Cricket's request for ETC designation complies with section 214(e)(1) of the Act because it is a

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166		common carrier that provides all of the services and functionalities supported by the
167		universal service program as set forth in 47 C.F.R. Section 54.101, et seq.
168	Q.	IS CRICKET A COMMON CARRIER IN THE AREAS FOR WHICH IT SEEKS
169		DESIGNATION IN THIS PROCEEDING?
170	A.	Yes. The Company is authorized by the FCC to provide AWS pursuant to the licenses
171		described in its application and is therefore a carrier recognized under 47 USC § 214(e)
172		as eligible for ETC designation. Footnote 3 to Cricket's Application provides a list of
173		Cricket's FCC licenses in Utah.
174	Q.	CAN YOU DESCRIBE HOW CRICKET SATISFIES THE STATUTORY AND
175		REGULATORY PREREQUISITES FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ETC IN UTAH
176	A.	Cricket satisfies each of the statutory and regulatory prerequisites set forth in the Act, the
177		FCC's rules and the Commission's Reports and Orders: ²
178		1. Cricket Offers Voice Telephony Services Supported by the Federal Low-
179		Income Universal Service Program [47 C.F.R. § 54.201(d)].
180		Cricket provides voice telephony services supported by federal universal service
181		support mechanisms, as set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.101, and will offer these
182		supported services throughout the areas in which it is designated as an ETC.
183		Cricket will provide these supported services using a combination of its own
184		facilities. Cricket primarily will use its own network infrastructure, which
185		includes the same antennae, cell-sites, towers, trunking, mobile switching and

Commission of Utah, Order on Reconsideration, Docket No. 10-2521-01 (July 13, 2011).

579830.1

See Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Report and Order, 20 FCC Rcd 6371 (2005). See also Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 12-11 (rel. Feb. 6, 2012) ("Lifeline Reform Order"). See also In the Matter of Virgin Mobile USA, L.P., Petition for Limited Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier, Public Service

186 interconnection facilities used to serve its existing customers. Cricket's voice 187 telephony services include: 188 Voice Grade Access. "Voice grade access" permits a telecommunications user to 189 transmit voice communications, including signaling the network that the caller 190 wishes to place a call, and to receive voice communications, including receiving a 191 signal that there is an incoming call. Through its interconnection agreements with 192 local exchange carriers ("LECs") in Utah, Cricket's customers will be able to 193 place and receive calls on the public switched telephone network with a minimum 194 bandwidth of 300 to 3000 Hertz. 195 Local Usage. "Local usage" is an amount of usage of exchange service provided 196 without an additional charge to end users. The FCC has specified that a local 197 usage plan is acceptable if it is "comparable to the one offered by the incumbent LEC in the service areas for which the applicant seeks designation."³ This 198 199 comparability analysis must proceed on a case-by-case basis, and take account of value-added capabilities and services incorporated into a plan.⁴ Cricket's service 200 201 plans, summarized in Exhibit JSB-3 to this Direct Testimony, all offer unlimited 202 local and toll calling at a low flat rate, and thus are at least comparable in value to 203 those offered by ILECs operating in the requested ETC service area. Cricket's plans offer consumers numerous benefits, including larger "local" calling areas, 204 205 mobility, and unlimited local and long-distance usage. In addition, these plans 206 incorporate value-added features, such as caller ID; unlimited domestic text and 207 picture messaging; unlimited text messaging to Mexico; premium extended

³ See Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Report and Order, 20 FCC Rcd 6371, at ¶ 32 (2005) ("2005 ETC Order").

Id.

208	coverage providing unlimited service without additional roaming fees in over
209	4,600 domestic cities and towns; and call waiting, three-way calling, and
210	voicemail, among other services.
211	Exhibit JSB-3 describes the different Cricket calling plans available to
212	subscribers. This rate plan matrix reflects the calling plans available to all pay-in-
213	advance customers, including Lifeline customers. Cricket applies a \$10 Lifeline
214	discount to the monthly bill for eligible Lifeline customers. Exhibit JSB-3
215	illustrates some of the plans that Cricket has made available for all customers,
216	including Lifeline customers. There are four cost categories which cost a flat
217	monthly rate of \$35, \$45, \$55 or \$65. All of the plans include unlimited
218	nationwide local calling, unlimited nationwide long distance, ⁵ caller ID and
219	voicemail at a minimum. Furthermore, Cricket has two international calling
220	plans. Each plan would cost \$10 less for a Lifeline eligible customer, for example
221	the Basic plan would only be \$25, but would still include unlimited nationwide
222	local calling, unlimited nationwide long distance, 6 caller ID and voicemail. This
223	is a superior product to traditional landline local calling given the geographical
224	constraints on ILEC local calling. Further, when Lifeline credits are applied to
225	eligible customers, this extended local calling area service will cost only \$25,
226	which is a comparable rate with local calling plans of ILECs which have a smaller
227	calling area. In addition, there are two international calling plans. As you can see
228	from Exhibit JSB-3, the Mexico plan costs a \$55 flat monthly fee and includes all
229	the services included in the \$45 Value plan, as well as 500 minutes to a Mexico

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This includes calling to all 50 states, Puerto Rico and Canada. This includes calling to all 50 states, Puerto Rico and Canada.

230 landline and 30 minutes to a Mexico mobile phone every month. Similarly, the 231 Global Plan costs a \$65 flat monthly fee and includes all the services included in 232 the \$45 Value plan, as well as 500 minutes to a landline in any foreign country 233 and 30 minutes to a mobile phone in any foreign country. The Mexico plan will 234 only cost \$45 and the Global plan will only cost \$55 for Lifeline customers after 235 the \$10 discount. 236 Access to Emergency Services. "Access to emergency services" includes access 237 to services, such as 911 and enhanced 911 ("E-911"), provided by local 238 governments or other public safety organizations. Cricket currently provides its 239 voice customers in Utah with such access, is capable of delivering automatic 240 numbering information ("ANI") and automatic location information ("ALI") over 241 its existing network, and otherwise satisfies applicable Utah and federal E-911 242 requirements. Further, Cricket pays all applicable E-911 fees in a timely manner. 243 Cricket will continue to work with local public safety answering points 244 ("PSAPs") within its ETC service areas to make 911 and E-911 service available 245 to its customers. 246 **Toll Limitation.** "Toll limitation" includes the offering of either "toll control" or 247 "toll blocking" to qualifying low-income customers, as a means of limiting or 248 blocking the completion of outgoing toll calls. Section 54.401(a)(2) of the FCC's 249 recently adopted rules provides that toll limitation service is not necessary for any 250 Lifeline service that does not distinguish between toll and non-toll calls in the pricing of the service. ⁷ Cricket's calling plans do not distinguish between local 251 252 and toll calls at the point of dialing, such that Cricket cannot offer toll limitation

⁷ See Lifeline Reform Order at \P 49.

253			without blocking all service to a customer. However, if for any reason Cricket
254			changes the structure of its service plans to distinguish between local and toll
255			calls, Cricket will meet the toll limitation requirement by providing toll blocking.
256		2.	Cricket Will Advertise the Availability of and Charges for its Universal
257			Service Qualifying Offerings [47 C.F.R. § 54.201(d)(2)] and Verify Eligibility.
258			Cricket will advertise the availability of the supported services detailed above,
259			and the corresponding rates and charges, in a manner designed to inform the
260			general public within its designated ETC service areas. This advertising will
261			occur through a combination of media channels, such as radio, newspaper,
262			magazine and other print advertisements, outdoor advertising, direct marketing,
263			and the Internet. Cricket will offer Lifeline service only under its own brand
264			name, and not through any affiliates. To the extent that Lifeline service is
265			provided by affiliates in the future, Cricket will disclose such information
266			pursuant to the reporting requirements set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.422. Exhibit
267			JSB-4 to Cricket's ETC Application provides a sample of some of the
268			advertisements for Lifeline that Cricket has used to market Lifeline in other states.
269		3.	Cricket Will Satisfy its Additional Obligations as an ETC.
270			In addition to those requirements set forth in Section 54.201 of the FCC's rules,
271			Cricket will satisfy other ETC requirements adopted by this Commission and the
272			FCC.
273	Q.	WILI	L CRICKET COMPLY WITH APPLICABLE SERVICE REQUIREMENTS
274		AS R	EQUIRED BY 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(1)(i)?
275	A.	Yes.	Cricket certifies that it will provide voice telephony service using its standard
276		custo	mer equipment (handsets/wireless devices). This service will meet the requirements

of Section 54.101, including voice grade access, local service, and access to emergency services. Because Cricket seeks only low-income support, as opposed to high-cost funding to support the construction of network facilities, it is not submitting a network improvement plan under 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(1)(ii).8

WILL CRICKET BE ABLE TO REMAIN FUNCTIONAL IN EMERGENCY Q. SITUATIONS AS REQUIRED BY 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(2)?

Yes. Cricket has the ability to remain functional in an emergency. Cricket is committed to providing and maintaining essential telecommunications services in times of emergency. In particular, Cricket maintains a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure the functionality of its service without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations. More specifically, all mobile switching centers and cell sites have battery backup power, each switching center has a dedicated diesel generator, and there are several cell site generators in the market area. In instances of power outages, priority is set based upon traffic, cell site location and time of day. In certain parts of the service area, a cell on wheels ("COW") can be deployed. In case of a total switch outage, a mobile command center may be established by each switch vendor. Traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations can be managed by re-routing of calls, the priority of which is determined based on traffic, cell site location, and time of day considerations. Cricket is also able to take advantage of mobile command centers established by its switch vendors in the event of a total switch outage.

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The FCC has made clear that this requirement does not apply to carriers seeking designation as a Lifeline-only ETC. See Lifeline Reform Order at ¶ 386.

298	Q.	WILL CRICKET SATISFY THE APPLICABLE CONSUMER PROTECTION
299		AND SERVICE QUALITY STANDARDS AS REQUIRED BY 47 C.F.R.
300		§ 54.202(a)(3)?
301	A.	Yes. Cricket will comply with all applicable state and federal consumer protection and
302		service quality standards. Further, Cricket will abide by CTIA's Consumer Code for
303		Wireless Service ("CTIA Code"). Cricket has already adopted the CTIA Code and is
304		committed to compliance with the CTIA Code throughout its service areas, including in
305		those areas where it is seeking designation as an ETC. In particular, Cricket will use its
306		best efforts to resolve complaints received by the Commission, and designates the
307		following contact person to work with Commission staff to resolve any complaints or
308		other compliance matters:
309		Carrie Comeford
310		Senior Manager Customer Care
311		Cricket Communications, Inc.
312		6380 South Fiddlers Green Circle
313		Greenwood Village, CO 80111
314		(303)734-7603
315		ccomeford@cricketcommunications.com
316		or
317		governmentinquiry@cricketcommunications.com
318		Cricket will comply with all applicable laws, rules and regulations relating to
319		consumer/billing requirements as set forth in the Utah Consumer Sales Practices Act.
320	Q.	DOES CRICKET HAVE THE FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL CAPABILITY
321		TO PROVIDE LIFELINE SERVICE 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(4)?

322	A.	Yes. As a leading wireless carrier with nearly six million customers and a market
323		capitalization of more than \$400 million, Cricket has both the financial and technical
324		capabilities to provide Lifeline service. Cricket operates as an ETC in 12 states, with an
325		additional eight ETC applications approved including the District of Columbia and 11
326		pending. The company will continue to rely on its successful business model and service
327		offerings to sustain and grow its network and operations, independent of USF
328		disbursements that provide discounts for qualifying Lifeline subscribers.
329	Q.	WILL CRICKET PROVIDE SERVICE PLAN TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS
330		REQUIRED BY 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.202(a)(5), 54.401(d)?
331	A.	Yes. Cricket offers several all-inclusive wireless service plans to customers, starting at
332		\$35 per month. All currently available rate plans include unlimited local and long-
333		distance calling with nationwide coverage. Lifeline subscribers may choose any standard
334		Cricket service plan and apply the available discount. Consumers can access plan
335		information via the company's website at http://www.leapwireless.com/brands/prepaid-
336		wireless-phone-plans. Additional information regarding service terms and conditions is
337		provided in Exhibit JSB -3.
338	Q.	DOES CRICKET REQUIRE SERVICE INITIATION DEPOSITS?
339	A.	No. As required by 47 C.F.R. § 54.401(c), Cricket does not collect service deposits for
340		its plans, and will not do so for Lifeline accounts.
341	Q.	DOES CRICKET HAVE NUMBER-PORTABILITY CHARGES?
342	A.	No. As required by 47 C.F.R. § 54.401(e), Cricket does not charge a monthly number-
343		portability fee, and will not do so for Lifeline accounts.
344	Q.	WILL CRICKET SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS FOR LIFELINE
345		CERTIFICATION AND VERIFICATION AS REQUIRED BY 47 C.F.R. § 54.410?

Public Service Commission of Utah

Docket No. 12-2551-01

A. Cricket will certify and verify consumer eligibility to participate in the Lifeline programs in accordance with the rules of this Commission and the FCC. Cricket will comply with the relevant laws, rules, and Commission orders governing eligibility verification, as they presently exist and as amended by Commission decision in Docket No. 10-2528-01, including bearing the costs of verification determined there.

Q. HOW WILL CRICKET GO ABOUT IDENTIFYING, QUALIFYING AND ENROLLING ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LIFELINE PROGRAM?

Cricket plans to engage in the advertising and outreach programs. Cricket will modify its USAC listing if the designation we seek in this proceeding is granted. In addition, we will modify our market web-site information to reflect the addition of the low-income designation areas requested in this proceeding to our current ETC area, as well as notify our customers via text message that we are a Lifeline provider. Cricket will work with government agencies that administer the qualifying assistance programs and with social service agencies to ensure that they are aware Cricket is a Lifeline provider. Cricket will provide these agencies with collateral materials outlining the Lifeline program and how to obtain Lifeline discounts. Cricket plans to expand their community outreach program in the counties where ETC designation is being sought. Community events in the areas where potential Lifeline subscribers live will be planned. Direct mailing to the zip codes in the covered areas will also provide information on the availability of the Lifeline program. Lifeline materials will be available for non-English speaking consumers. Advertising will occur through some combination of media channels, radio, newspaper, magazine and other print advertisements, outdoor advertising, direct marketing, and the Internet. Cricket stores and dealers will be furnished with promotional material visible to customers in the stores including posters and counter cards.

Docket No. 12-2551-01

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370	Q.	WHAT WILL CRICKET DO TO ENSURE THAT CUSTOMERS ARE NOT
371		OBTAINING LIFELINE SERVICE FROM MORE THAN ONE CARRIER?
372	A.	Cricket will certify and verify consumer eligibility to participate in the Lifeline program
373		in accordance with the rules of this Commission and the FCC.
374	Q.	HOW WILL CRICKET ENSURE THAT ONLY ONE PERSON PER
375		HOUSEHOLD IS RECEIVING THE LIFELINE DISCOUNT?
376	A.	Cricket will ensure that only one eligible customer per household is enrolled in the
377		Lifeline program by requiring eligible customers to initial next to several legal
378		requirements on Cricket's Lifeline application and sign under penalty of perjury that no
379		one else in his/her household currently is enrolled in the Lifeline program. Exhibit JSB-5
380		is a sample of the Lifeline application currently used by Cricket in Illinois. Cricket also
381		performs a monthly reconciliation between its Lifeline database and its billing system to
382		verify that no duplicate addresses are being used by customers receiving Lifeline support.
383		Almost all of Cricket's Lifeline marketing materials state that Lifeline is limited to one
384		line per household.
385	Q.	WILL CRICKET PAY ALL APPLICABLE FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL
386		REGULATORY FEES?
387	A.	Yes. Cricket will pay all applicable federal, state, and local regulatory fees in a timely
388		manner, including, but not limited to, universal service fees, "the funding of emergency
389		services addressed in Utah Code Ann. §§ 69-2-5, 69-2-5.5 and 69-2-5.6 (911 emergency
390		telecommunication services, the Poison Control Center, and statewide unified E-911
391		emergency service)".
392	Q.	IS THERE ANY APPLICABLE FEE OR TAX THAT CRICKET WILL NOT
393		AGREE TO PAY?

394 A. Not to my knowledge.

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Q. CAN YOU EXPLAIN WHAT YOU MEAN BY PAY-IN-ADVANCE?

A. Cricket's plans offer customers unlimited local and long distance calls, as well as

unlimited text messages, voicemail, caller ID and caller ID blocking for a flat fee that the

customer pays at the beginning of each billing cycle. Upon designation as an ETC, the

Lifeline discount will be deducted from the flat fee that qualifying low-income customers

pay on a monthly basis for those services. The plans that Cricket offers to their Lifeline

customers are indistinguishable from the plans they offer to customers that do not qualify

for the Lifeline discount.

Q. ARE THERE ANY OPTIONAL LIFELINE SERVICE OFFERINGS THAT UTAH CUSTOMERS MAY PURCHASE?

First, I just want to clarify that Cricket does not offer special "Lifeline offerings."

Instead, Cricket offers the same plans, discounts and options to eligible Lifeline customers as it does to non-Lifeline customers. As such, Lifeline customers will be able to purchase the same additional service offerings as other Cricket customers. *Exhibit JSB-3* illustrates the additional service offerings that are available to customers for an additional \$5 per month under each rate plan, with the exception of unlimited international long distance which costs \$10 extra per month. All of the plans include unlimited nationwide local calling, unlimited nationwide long distance, ⁹ caller ID and voicemail at a minimum.

Q: IS ROAMING INCLUDED IN CRICKET'S SERVICE PLANS OR IS THERE AN ADDITIONAL CHARGE FOR SERVICE WHEN THE CUSTOMER IS ROAMING?

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Direct Testimony of Julie S. Buechler Public Service Commission of Utah Docket No. 12-2551-01

⁹ This includes calling to all 50 states, Puerto Rico and Canada.

417	A.	Cricket has nationwide coverage with no additional fees, but it doesn't mean there aren't
418		small pockets that are not covered by Cricket's network. If a customer goes to Cricket's
419		website, he/she can search by address to find out what areas fall outside of Cricket's
420		nationwide coverage and would therefore be roaming areas for Cricket's traditional
421		wireless customers. These are the areas where a customer has to roam to get service
422		because it falls outside of Cricket's nationwide coverage. As you can see from Exhibit
423		JSB-3, for a flat monthly fee of \$5 a customer gets 30 roaming minutes per month under
424		any of the Cricket plans. This is a cost of approximately \$0.16 per minute. However,
425		because Cricket is a pay-in-advance provider, customers cannot incur unforeseen
426		roaming costs. Instead, customers must pay-in-advance for roaming minutes. Customers
427		can either purchase 30 roaming minutes per month for an additional flat fee of \$5 per
428		month or they can put money in their flex buckets and the cost for roaming minutes will
429		be deducted from those prepaid funds on a minute-by-minute basis. This means that pay-
430		in-advance customers will never have a surprise bill due to roaming costs. If the
431		customer has not paid in advance for roaming minutes, the customer will not have service
432		in roaming areas. However, roaming has limited relevance to Cricket's ETC Application
433		since Cricket is only asking for ETC designation within its network of coverage. Cricket
434		does not advertise or sell its pay-in-advance wireless services in areas that fall outside of
435		its network.
436	Q.	ARE LIFELINE CUSTOMERS ELIGIBLE FOR THE SAME DISCOUNTS AS
437		NON-LIFELINE CUSTOMERS?

Cricket offers various discounts. For example, Cricket offers service at a reduced rate to A. members of the military and to families who are purchasing service from Cricket for more than one phone. These discounts are still applicable to Lifeline customers. The \$10

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441		Lifeline discount would be applied to the customer's monthly bill in addition to any other
442		discounts that Cricket offers and for which they qualify. This is also true for promotional
443		deals. For example, Cricket had a "Black Friday" promotion that offered service plans at
444		a reduced rate. A Lifeline customer would be eligible for promotional deals, just like a
445		non-Lifeline customer, except that Lifeline customers receive an additional \$10 Lifeline
446		discount off the promotional rate.
447	Q.	DO LIFELINE CUSTOMERS HAVE TO PURCHASE THEIR HANDSETS?
448	A.	Customers are not required to purchase Cricket handsets. Customers have the option of
449		purchasing Cricket handsets or a customer may bring in a phone and Cricket will activate
450		it, as long as it is compatible with Cricket's service. Cricket uses the common CDMA
451		technology making most phones Cricket-compatible, regardless of which carrier they
452		were purchased from.
453	Q.	DOES CRICKET OFFER WEB ACCESS TO LIFELINE CUSTOMERS?
454	A.	Yes. As you can see from Exhibit JSB-3, unlimited Mobile Web can be purchased for an
455		additional \$5 on any plan if the handset allows for web access, but is also available
456		starting with the \$45 monthly plan.
457	Q.	DOES CRICKET CHARGE FOR CALLS TO CUSTOMER SERVICE?
458	A.	No. The customer gets an unlimited amount of minutes per month for a flat fee;
459		therefore, there is no additional charge for calls to customer service. Instead, all calls are
460		covered by the flat fee that is paid at the beginning of each billing period.
461	Q.	DOES CRICKET CHARGE TO CLOSE A LIFELINE ACCOUNT?
462	A.	No.
463	Q.	WHAT ARE THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF CRICKET'S LIFELINE
464		SERVICE?

465	A.	Exhibit JSB-6 is a print out of the Cricket's Terms and Conditions of service for pay-in-
466		advance wireless services that Cricket provides to customers when they purchase a phone
467		from Cricket. The terms and conditions of Cricket's Lifeline service are identical to
468		Cricket's terms and conditions of service for non-Lifeline pay-in-advance wireless
469		customers. The terms and conditions are also available on-line.

Q. DESCRIBE THE PROCESS BY WHICH A CRICKET LIFELINE CUSTOMER PURCHASES THEIR SERVICE FROM THE INTITIATING REQUEST TO THE ACTIVATION OF THE PHONE?

Cricket's Lifeline customers commence service in exactly the same way that a non-Lifeline customer would. Although Cricket Lifeline applications can be printed off of the internet, an applicant for Lifeline must go, in person to a Cricket store to submit it. Cricket requires all Lifeline applicants to show a government issued identification in order to verify the identity of the person submitting the Lifeline application. A customer can either purchase a phone through Cricket or bring in their own Cricket-compatible phone to activate. The customer fills out the Lifeline application and the Cricket employee will go over the requirements with them. The application is then scanned in to Cricket's Corporate Lifeline Team in San Diego and reviewed by someone who is trained in that particular state. The approval process usually takes about seven to ten days. All customers are required to prepay for the first month's service, just like all subsequent months, so they pay the full rate plan amount the day they sign up. Only after approval of the Lifeline application is the Lifeline discount applied to the customer's monthly bills. If the customer is not approved for Lifeline he/she may elect to continue to pre-pay for Cricket's service on a monthly basis without application of the Lifeline discount or he/she may choose not to pay for future service and thereby disconnect after the 30 day

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Docket No. 12-2551-01

489 hot-line status period. In the event that someone is not approved, he/she may return 490 equipment purchased from Cricket, within Cricket's standard return policy. 491 Q. CAN CUSTOMERS PRINT OUT AND MAIL IN A LIFELINE APPLICATION 492 WITHOUT CONTACTING THE TOLL-FREE NUMBER? 493 No. The only way a customer can submit an application to be eligible for Lifeline is if A. 494 he/she submits the application in person at a Cricket store where they must show a 495 government issued identification. 496 HOW QUICKLY CAN CRICKET COMMENCE LIFELINE SERVICE? Q. 497 Cricket intends to launch Lifeline services as soon as possible after the Commission A. 498 approves its pending Application. 499 Q. WHAT IS CRICKET'S PLAN FOR CESSATION OF SERVICE DUE TO NON-500 **PAYMENT?** 501 Cricket collects payment before providing telephone service to the customer which A. 502 allows Cricket to forego credit checks and contracts when signing new customers up for 503 service. If a customer is unable to pay his/her bill, the phone will go into hot-line status 504 at no cost to the customer for up to a 30 day period, meaning that customers can continue 505 to send and receive text messages, but telephone service is limited to calls made to 506 customer care and 911 only. While the phone is in hot-line status, Cricket distributes 507 notices via text message reminding customers to pay their bill in order to restore full 508 service to their phone. If the customer fails to pay its bill during the hot-line status 509 period, the customer is disconnected from service and Cricket stops collecting Lifeline 510 reimbursements from the USF for that customer. If the customer wishes to reactivate 511 service after being disconnected, he/she must re-apply for Lifeline to receive the Lifeline

discount.

513	Q.	ARE THE SUPPORTED SERVICES TO BE OFFERED USING CRICKET'S
514		OWN FACILITIES OR THROUGH A COMBINATION OF ITS OWN
515		FACILITIES AND RESOLD SERVICES OF OTHER CARRIERS?
516	A.	Cricket will offer the supported services solely through its own facilities. We will use
517		our existing AWS network infrastructure, which consists of antennae, cell sites, mobile
518		switching offices, trunking, network equipment and interconnection arrangements with
519		other carriers to provide the supported services in the wire centers where the company
520		seeks designation. Cricket will not resell the services of other carriers.
521	Q.	IS CRICKET COMMITTED TO PROVIDING SERVICE TO ALL CUSTOMERS
522		MAKING A REASONABLE REQUEST FOR SERVICE IN THE PROPOSED
523		DESIGNATION AREA?
524	A.	
	Λ.	Yes. As stated previously, although Cricket has received forbearance from certain
525	A.	Yes. As stated previously, although Cricket has received forbearance from certain requirements ¹⁰ , Cricket is committed to providing service on a timely basis to all
525526	A.	
	A.	requirements ¹⁰ , Cricket is committed to providing service on a timely basis to all
526	Α.	requirements ¹⁰ , Cricket is committed to providing service on a timely basis to all customers in the proposed ETC designated area upon receipt of a reasonable request for
526 527	Α.	requirements ¹⁰ , Cricket is committed to providing service on a timely basis to all customers in the proposed ETC designated area upon receipt of a reasonable request for service. For those customers within Cricket's ETC designated area, Cricket is committed

Cricket is eligible to seek ETC designation without conforming its service area to that of the underlying rural telephone company for Lifeline-only support provided that it fulfills the commitments in its Compliance Plan in each state where it is designated to provide Lifeline service.

The FCC Orders in Cricket's Petition for Forbearance address the Commission's concerns discussed in the Order on Reconsideration issued in the Virgin Mobile USA, L.P. proceeding, regarding service areas served by a rural telephone company.

Exhibit B of Cricket's Application contains two Orders from the FCC relating to Cricket's Petition for Forbearance. The FCC Order issued February 7, 2012 states:

530		deploying a roof mounted antenna or other equipment, (c) adjusting the nearest cell
531		tower, (d) adjusting network or customer facilities, (e) reselling services from another
532		carrier's facilities to provide service, or (f) employing, leasing or constructing an
533		additional cell site, cell extender, repeater or other similar equipment.
534	Q.	WILL CRICKET COMPLY WITH THE CTIA CODE OF WIRELESS SERVICE?
535	A.	Yes. Cricket has already adopted the CTIA Code and will continue to comply with the
536		CTIA—The Wireless Association® Consumer Code for Wireless Service—if designated
537		as an ETC in Utah. Cricket will comply with all applicable state and federal consumer
538		protection and service quality standards. Further, Cricket will use its best efforts to
539		resolve complaints received by the Commission and designates the following contact
540		person to work with Commission staff to resolve any complaints or other compliance
541		matters:
542		Carrie Comeford
543		Senior Manager Customer Care
544		Cricket Communications, Inc.
545		6380 South Fiddlers Green Circle
546		Greenwood Village, CO 80111
547		(303)734-7603
548		ccomeford@cricketcommunications.com
549		or
550		governmentinquiry@cricketcommunications.com
551	Q.	HAS CRICKET DEMONSTRATED THAT IT OFFERS A LOCAL USAGE PLAN
552		COMPARABLE TO ONE OFFERED BY THE ILEC; HOW DOES CRICKET
553		SATISFY THAT REQUIREMENT?

Docket No. 12-2551-01

554 Cricket's plan is comparable to the telephone plans offered by ILECs in the areas that A. 555 Cricket serves in Utah. As stated previously, Cricket offers a low-cost \$35 per month 556 wireless service plan which includes unlimited local and long distance calling in areas 557 that reach beyond those of the ILECs. With the application of the \$10 monthly Lifeline 558 credit, these extended area calling plans offer an effective monthly rate of \$25. Add to 559 that the fact that our lowest monthly plan now includes the convenience of mobility that 560 landline local plans do not offer, we believe it is clear that Cricket offers a comparable 561 local usage plan. 562 HAS CRICKET CONTRACTED WITH ANY COMPANY TO ASSIST IT WITH Q. 563 ITS LIFELINE SERVICES? 564 No. Lifeline applications are processed by Cricket in its San Diego offices. Cricket has a A. 565 Corporate Lifeline Team which includes individuals that are trained in the state-specific 566 requirements for each state in which Cricket has received ETC designation. So, for 567 example, once Cricket receives ETC designation in Utah, there will be a primary person

requirements for each state in which Cricket has received ETC designation. So, for example, once Cricket receives ETC designation in Utah, there will be a primary person who is trained in the requirements for ETC designation in Utah and there will also be other members of the Corporate Lifeline Team who are cross-trained to fill-in for the primary person when he/she is absent and/or in times of high volume.

Q. HAS CRICKET BEEN DESIGNATED AS AN ETC IN OTHER STATES?

A. Yes. *Exhibit JSB-7* is an updated list of the states in which Cricket has received ETC designation and the states where Cricket has pending ETC petitions at the time that this testimony was filed. As you can see from *Exhibit JSB-7*, Cricket has received ETC designation in 20 states and has 11 more pending, including Utah.

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576	Q.	HAS CRICKET EVER BEEN DENIED A REQUEST FOR ETC DESIGNATION
577		OR WITHDRAWN A PETITION FOR ETC DESIGNATION BEFORE A STATE
578		COMMISSION OR THE FCC?
579	A.	No.
580	Q.	WHAT IMPACT WILL CRICKET HAVE ON THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE
581		FUND IF GRANTED ETC STATUS FOR LIFELINE PURPOSES?
582	A.	Cricket's designation as an ETC solely for Lifeline purposes would not unduly burden
583		the federal USF or otherwise reduce the amount of funding available to other carriers.
584		The secondary role of Lifeline support with respect to overall USF expenditures is well
585		documented. The nature by which Lifeline support is provided obviates any concerns
586		regarding the impact on the federal USF. Lifeline support is provided on a customer-
587		specific basis, and only after a carrier has acquired and begun to serve an eligible
588		customer does the carrier receive Lifeline support for that customer. By tying support to
589		actual service of a customer, moreover, the Lifeline program ensures that USF support
590		only funds the carrier that actually "wins" the customer's service. The number of carriers
591		offering Lifeline services does not impact the amount of the Lifeline fund which is based
592		on eligible customers, who will have more choices with additional competition.
593	Q.	CAN CRICKET APPROXIMATE THE ACTUAL AMOUNT IT WILL RECEIVE
594		FROM THE USF FOR PROVIDING LIFELINE IN UTAH?
595	A.	No. In order to predict the annual reimbursement amount collected by Cricket for
596		providing Lifeline service to customers in Utah, Cricket would have to predict how many
597		customers it will have annually which cannot be done in a way that would produce an
598		accurate number. Consequently, there is no way of accurately predicting how many

Lifeline customers Cricket will have in Utah.

Docket No. 12-2551-01

600	Q.	ARE THERE ANY COMPETITIVE BENEFITS ASSOCIATED WITH
601		DESIGNATING CRICKET AS AN ETC IN UTAH?
602	A.	Designation of Cricket as an ETC will promote competition and increase the pressure on
603		other carriers to target low-income consumers with service offerings tailored to their
604		needs, greatly benefiting low-income customers in Utah. Cricket's pay-in-advance,
605		unlimited offering is very competitive and will force other carriers to rethink their own
606		offerings to ensure that they can compete with what Cricket is offering to Lifeline
607		customers in Utah.
608	Q.	IN A COMPETITIVE MARKET SHOULD ALL LIFELINE OFFERINGS BE
609		THE SAME?
610	A.	No. Cricket understands that the Commission might want a minimum amount of Lifeline
611		service to be provided by any carrier authorized as an ETC. However, once that
612		minimum threshold is met, ETCs should be able develop differentiated service offerings
613		that attract Lifeline customers to each provider. For example, ETCs should be free to
614		continue to add additional plans and services as service evolves and technology gets
615		better. That way, low-income customers are given real choices among carriers based on
616		what programs they offer and the prices they charge. This will lead to products that
617		better meet the needs of low-income customers. As stated above, Cricket has already
618		demonstrated its willingness to provide quality service by not differentiating between its
619		Lifeline offering and its regular customer offerings.
620	Q.	CRICKET STATES IN ITS APPLICATION THAT THE PUBLIC INTEREST
621		WILL BE SERVED BY GRANTING THE REQUESTED DESIGNATION;
622		WOULD YOU PLEASE ELABORATE ON THIS COMPONENT OF THE
623		APPLICATION?

Docket No. 12-2551-01

644	Q.	WHAT ADDITIONAL PUBLIC INTEREST BENEFITS WILL OCCUR BY THE
643		serve the public interest.
642		was intended to achieve. These factors demonstrate that a grant of the designation will
641		and their availability to low income users. This is the result that the federal USF fund
640		necessarily be used to provide Lifeline service to subscribers, thus promoting the services
639		directly related to the price an eligible customer pays, all USAC reimbursements will
638		Because the low-income support will be distributed on a per customer basis and is
637		service offerings create a choice not available for subscribers to land line service.
636		to traditional land line service. And, given the mobility of wireless service, Cricket's
635		USAC – will serve to make Cricket's service offering an even more affordable alternative
634		availability of \$10 in low income support – \$0.75 of which Cricket will not recover from
633		have the benefit of reduced toll charges while communicating more frequently. The
632		a low-income demographic who have high volumes of usage well. Thus, customers will
631		calling area. The availability of unlimited local and long distance will serve customers in
630		service offerings include unlimited local and long distance calling in an extended local
629		advantages of Cricket's service offerings to consumers. As to the latter, all of Cricket's
628		application will bring with it the benefit of increased consumer choice and the unique
627		With respect to the public interest of designating Cricket as an ETC, a grant of the
626		convenience in day to day life and are necessary to consumers for any number of reasons.
625		convenience and necessity inasmuch as communications services in general enhance
624	A.	Yes. Of course, Cricket believes that its application is consistent with public

A. In addition to the public interest benefits listed above, the following list outlines the benefits of Cricket's wireless lifeline services:

DESIGNATION OF CRICKET AS A COMPETITIVE ETC PROVIDER?

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648	•	Cricket satisfies of all of the statutory requirements for ETC designation including
649		providing specified service functionalities, and required advertising using several
650		types of media including a combination of media channels, such as radio,
651		newspaper, magazines and other print advertisements, outdoor advertising, direct
652		marketing, and the internet.
653	•	Cricket will increase competition in the Lifeline market and will increase pressure
654		on carriers to provide service offerings tailored to the needs of consumers.
655	•	Cricket will provide increased customer choice and improved customer access.
656	•	Cricket will provide usage of exchange services without an additional charge to
657		end users.
658	•	Cricket will offer larger "local" calling areas, mobility, and unlimited local and
659		long distance usage.
660	•	Cricket's Lifeline service will include a variety of technological features at no
661		additional charge including caller ID, voice mail, call waiting, three-way calling
662		and E911 service.
663	•	Cricket's service offers unlimited domestic text and picture messaging.
664	•	Cricket will offer unlimited text messaging to Mexico.
665	•	Cricket's service includes premium extended coverage providing unlimited
666		service without additional roaming fees in over 4,600 domestic cities and towns.
667	•	Cricket's service has no activation or connection charges for the lifeline service.
668	•	Cricket does not require contracts and does not require any credit checks.
669	•	Cricket will utilize existing network infrastructure.
670	•	Cricket is committed to pay all applicable taxes and public interest charges.

671		 Cricket does not seek state USF support.
672		Cricket will work cooperatively with the Commission to establish new
673		verification processes and to fully comply with Utah law.
674		• Cricket has already been granted ETC status in 11 states and has never been
675		denied.
676	Q.	DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?
677	A.	Yes, it does.