

TC04-260

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RECEIVED

JAN 25 2005

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Also Admitted in New York
and Maryland

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January 24, 2005

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Mr. William Bullard
Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070
(605) 773-3201

Re: Budget Phone, Inc.
Docket No. TC04-260

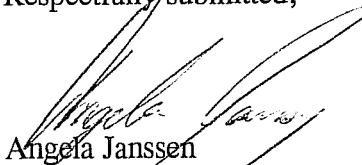
Dear Mr. Bullard:

Enclosed please find one original and ten (10) copies of Budget Phone, Inc.'s Indemnity Bond in the amount of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000).

I have enclosed an extra copy of this cover letter to be date stamped and returned to me in the enclosed self-addressed prepaid envelope.

If you have any questions or if I may provide you with any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,



Angela Janssen
Legal Assistant to Lance J.M. Steinhart
Attorney for Budget Phone, Inc.

Enclosures

cc: Leigh Woodruff

ITEMNITY BOND
TO THE
PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Bond No. 39S103668774BCM

We, Budget Phone, Inc., the principal and applicant for a CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY to provide local and long distance telecommunications services within the State of South Dakota, and Travelers Casualty & Surety Company of America, as an admitted surety insurer, bind ourselves unto the Public Utilities Commission of the State of South Dakota and the consumers of South Dakota as Obligee, in the sum of \$25,000.00.

The conditions of the obligation are such that the principal, having been granted such CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY subject to the provision that said principal purchase this Indemnity Bond, and if said principal shall in all respects fully and faithfully comply with all applicable provisions of South Dakota State Law, and reimburse customers of Budget Phone, Inc. any prepayment or deposits they have made which may be unable or unwilling to return to said customers as a result of insolvency or other business failure, then this obligation shall be void, discharged and forever exonerated, otherwise to remain in full force and effect.

This bond shall take effect as of the date hereon and shall remain in force and effect until the surety is released from liability by the written order of the Public Utilities Commission, provided that the surety may cancel this Bond and be relieved of further liability hereunder by delivering thirty (30) days written notice to the Public Utilities Commission. Such cancellation shall not affect any liability incurred or accrued hereunder prior to the termination of said thirty (30) day period.

Dated this 17th day of January, 2003x 5
To be effective this 17th day of January, 2003x 5

The original bond is in Delaines bottom desk drawer.

BUDGET PHONE, INC.
By [Signature]

TRAVELERS CASUALTY & SURETY COMPANY OF AMERICA

Countersigned this 17th day of January, 2003.
Countersigned for South Dakota

By [Signature]
Kay J. Harrison - Attorney-in-Fact

[Signature]
Resident Agent

By _____
Attorney in Fact



IMPORTANT DISCLOSURE NOTICE OF TERRORISM INSURANCE COVERAGE

On Nov. 26, 2002, President Bush signed into law the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (the "Act"). The Act establishes a short-term program under which the federal government will share in the payment of covered losses caused by certain acts of international terrorism. We are providing you with this notice to inform you of the key features of the Act, and to let you know what effect, if any, the Act will have on your premium.

Under the Act, insurers are required to provide coverage for certain losses caused by international acts of terrorism as defined in the Act. The Act further provides that the federal government will pay a share of such losses. Specifically, the federal government will pay 90 percent of the amount of covered losses caused by certain acts of terrorism, which is in excess of an insurer's statutorily established deductible for that year. The Act also caps the amount of terrorism-related losses for which the federal government or an insurer can be responsible at \$100 billion, provided that the insurer has met its deductible.

Please note that passage of the Act does not result in any change in coverage under the attached policy or bond (or the policy or bond being quoted). Please also note that no separate additional premium charge has been made for the terrorism coverage required by the Act. The premium charge that is allocable to such coverage is inseparable from and imbedded in your overall premium, and is no more than one percent of your premium.

**TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY OF AMERICA
TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY
FARMINGTON CASUALTY COMPANY
Hartford, Connecticut 06183-9062**

POWER OF ATTORNEY AND CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY OF ATTORNEY(S)-IN-FACT

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, THAT TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY OF AMERICA, TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY and FARMINGTON CASUALTY COMPANY, corporations duly organized under the laws of the State of Connecticut, and having their principal offices in the City of Hartford, County of Hartford, State of Connecticut, (hereinafter the "Companies") hath made, constituted and appointed, and do by these presents make, constitute and appoint: Jerry W. Thomas, Joseph P. Farr, Michelle Jeanmard, Kay J. Harrison, Nina G. Bennett, Christy S. Dollins, of Monroe, Louisiana, their true and lawful Attorney(s)-in-Fact, with full power and authority hereby conferred to sign, execute and acknowledge, at any place within the United States, the following instrument(s): by his/her sole signature and act, any and all bonds, recognizances, contracts of indemnity, and other writings obligatory in the nature of a bond, recognizance, or conditional undertaking and any and all consents incident thereto and to bind the Companies, thereby as fully and to the same extent as if the same were signed by the duly authorized officers of the Companies, and all the acts of said Attorney(s)-in-Fact, pursuant to the authority herein given, are hereby ratified and confirmed.

This appointment is made under and by authority of the following Standing Resolutions of said Companies, which Resolutions are now in full force and effect:

VOTED: That the Chairman, the President, any Vice Chairman, any Executive Vice President, any Senior Vice President, any Vice President, any Second Vice President, the Treasurer, any Assistant Treasurer, the Corporate Secretary or any Assistant Secretary may appoint Attorneys-in-Fact and Agents to act for and on behalf of the company and may give such appointee such authority as his or her certificate of authority may prescribe to sign with the Company's name and seal with the Company's seal bonds, recognizances, contracts of indemnity, and other writings obligatory in the nature of a bond, recognizance, or conditional undertaking, and any of said officers or the Board of Directors at any time may remove any such appointee and revoke the power given him or her.

VOTED: That the Chairman, the President, any Vice Chairman, any Executive Vice President, any Senior Vice President or any Vice President may delegate all or any part of the foregoing authority to one or more officers or employees of this Company, provided that each such delegation is in writing and a copy thereof is filed in the office of the Secretary.

VOTED: That any bond, recognizance, contract of indemnity, or writing obligatory in the nature of a bond, recognizance, or conditional undertaking shall be valid and binding upon the Company when (a) signed by the President, any Vice Chairman, any Executive Vice President, any Senior Vice President or any Vice President, any Second Vice President, the Treasurer, any Assistant Treasurer, the Corporate Secretary or any Assistant Secretary and duly attested and sealed with the Company's seal by a Secretary or Assistant Secretary, or (b) duly executed (under seal, if required) by one or more Attorneys-in-Fact and Agents pursuant to the power prescribed in his or her certificate or their certificates of authority or by one or more Company officers pursuant to a written delegation of authority.

This Power of Attorney and Certificate of Authority is signed and sealed by facsimile (mechanical or printed) under and by authority of the following Standing Resolution voted by the Boards of Directors of TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY OF AMERICA, TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY and FARMINGTON CASUALTY COMPANY, which Resolution is now in full force and effect:

VOTED: That the signature of each of the following officers: President, any Executive Vice President, any Senior Vice President, any Vice President, any Assistant Vice President, any Secretary, any Assistant Secretary, and the seal of the Company may be affixed by facsimile to any power of attorney or to any certificate relating thereto appointing Resident Vice Presidents, Resident Assistant Secretaries or Attorneys-in-Fact for purposes only of executing and attesting bonds and undertakings and other writings obligatory in the nature thereof, and any such power of attorney or certificate bearing such facsimile signature or facsimile seal shall be valid and binding upon the Company and any such power so executed and certified by such facsimile signature and facsimile seal shall be valid and binding upon the Company in the future with respect to any bond or undertaking to which it is attached.