<u>Affidavit</u>

State of North Carolina

County of Durham

) SS.

- 1. My name is Allison M. Ellis. I am an officer of Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, LLC (the "Company") and am authorized to give this affidavit on behalf of the Company. This affidavit is provided to support the request of the Company for certification by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission at contemplated in 47 CFR § 54-314.
- 2. The Company hereby certifies that the federal high-cost universal service support it received in 2015 was used only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support was intended. The Company also certifies that the federal high-cost it will receive in 2017 will be used only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which such support is intended.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

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Allison M. Ellis Officer Title: Vice President – Regulatory Affairs

State of North Carolina

County of Durham

Subscribed and sworn to before me this $\underline{\cancel{3}}$ day of May 2016.

) SS.

Notary Public

SUSAN A. MILLER NOTARY PUBLIC Wake County North Carolina My Commission Expires Oct. 5, 2019