

Via Electronic Filing

August 11, 2016

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
State Capitol
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

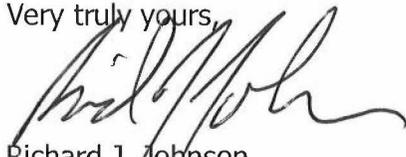
Re: In the Matter of the Request of Farmers Mutual Telephone Company for Certification
Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support
Docket No.: TC16-021

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

Enclosed by e-filing please find Farmers Mutual Telephone Company's Response to Staff Data Request 1 of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission and a Corrected Annual ETC Certification Filing (confirming that the request for certification pertains to 2017 not 2016).

The Company requests Confidential treatment of Responses to Request 1-2, which is submitted as separate Confidential document, pursuant to the requirements of ARSD § 20:10:01:41. This documentation contains financial information with independent economic value which is not generally known to, and not readily ascertainable to, competitors of the Company which could obtain economic value from disclosure. The Company maintains the information as secret. The Company requests that such information be maintained as Confidential by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission in perpetuity.

Very truly yours,



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RJJ/keb
Enclosures
cc: Kevin Beyer
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