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Via US Mail and Email

Chairman Chris Nelson
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
State Capitol Building
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Re: Consolidated Communications of Iowa Company Connect America Fund Expenditures

Dear Chairman Nelson:

This letter is a follow-up to your question during the August 2nd Public Utilities Commission meeting regarding the commitment of Consolidated Communications of Iowa Company (“Consolidated ILEC”) to utilize Connect America Fund (“CAF”) funding for the upgrade of broadband services in its service territory. As you are aware, this firm represents Mutual Telephone Company of Sioux Center, Iowa, d/b/a Premier Communications (“Mutual”). Mutual will be acquiring control of Consolidated ILEC from Consolidated Communications, Inc., (“Consolidated Parent”).

During the August 2nd Public Utilities Commission meeting, you asked whether Consolidated ILEC, following the change in control to Mutual, will continue its previously stated plans to utilize the Connect America Fund (“CAF”) money for the upgrade of broadband services. Mutual has confirmed that it does plan on utilizing CAF Phase II funding to meet the build-out obligations made by Consolidated for its SAC 351109, which in addition to eligible Iowa census blocks, includes eligible South Dakota census blocks. Mutual has a long history of building out its territories in Iowa and intends to continue that history in the exchanges served by Consolidated ILEC. Mutual is, however, unaware of any specific commitments that Consolidated may have made directly to you about its South Dakota locations. If there were any further commitments please let us know so that we may discuss the same with Mutual.

Mutual looks forward to working with you and the Commission in achieving the build-out requirements and providing quality service to its South Dakota customers. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at 605-271-4938 or via email at erice@cutlerlawfirm.com.

Sincerely,
CUTLER LAW FIRM, LLP


Ryan J. Taylor
For the Firm

RJT/dlu
cc: Ryan Boone