

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF</b>	)	
<b>WIDE VOICE, LLC FOR A CERTIFICATE OF</b>	)	<b>Docket No. TC17-001</b>
<b>AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE LOCAL EXCHANGE AND</b>	)	
<b>INTEREXCHANGE LONG DISTANCE SERVICES</b>	)	
<b>IN SOUTH DAKOTA</b>	)	

**SDTA Petition to Intervene**

The South Dakota Telecommunications Association ("SDTA") hereby petitions the Commission for intervention in the above captioned proceeding pursuant to SDCL 1-26-17.1 and ARSD §§ 20:10:01:15.02, 20:10:01:15.03 and 20:10:01:15.05. In support hereof, SDTA states as follows:

1. SDTA is an incorporated organization representing the interests of numerous cooperative, independent and municipal telephone companies operating throughout the State of South Dakota.

2. On or about January 12, 2017, Wide Voice, LLC (hereinafter referenced as "Wide Voice") filed an application with the Commission seeking a certificate of authority to provide both competitive local exchange and interexchange long distance services within the State of South Dakota.

3. All of the SDTA member companies operate as "rural telephone companies" for purposes of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 and also the state laws enacted in 1998 addressing local exchange competition (SDCL § 39-31-69, et. seq.).

4. SDTA files this Petition to Intervene given certain inconsistent statements contained in the Wide Voice Application regarding the scope of the request for a certificate of authority to provide "competitive local exchange service, including exchange access service." Wide Voice states in paragraph (9) of the Application that it "intends to offer its

services initially in the territory now served by CenturyLink QC (Qwest) [and that] . . . [t]he Company will adhere to the service area maps defined by CenturyLink QC (Qwest).” The Application also states, however, in par. 13(a) that “Wide Voice will enter into interconnection agreements with CenturyLink QC (Qwest) and other certificated LECs as Customer demand warrants.” *Emphasis added.* And further, even though the Application states in par. 15 that “Wide Voice is not seeking authority to provide retail, end user local exchange service in the service area of rural telephone companies,” it also states that “the Company may, upon receipt of a request from a prospective customer, enter into interconnection and/or resale agreements with a rural telephone company.” These statements are inconsistent and give rise to questions concerning the scope of Wide Voice’s local exchange certification request. Further clarifying information is needed from Wide Voice as to the type of local exchange services to be provided (whether “retail,” “wholesale” or “carrier level”, see par. 8(a) of Application) and where, in fact, those services will be provided.

5. Without more information, SDTA believes the additional service obligations imposed on competitive local exchange carriers entering rural service areas (found in SDCL Section 49-31-73 and ARSD Sections 20:10:32:15 thru 20:10:32:17) must be viewed as applicable and must be addressed. The Application at this time does not include a request for a waiver of these rural safeguard provisions, as is permitted under ARSD Section 20:10:32:18. Under these provisions, Wide Voice, before being granted a COA and a waiver of the additional ETC service obligations in South Dakota’s rural service areas would have to prove that granting such a waiver would “not adversely impact universal service,” would not impair “quality of service” and would otherwise be consistent with the “public interest.”

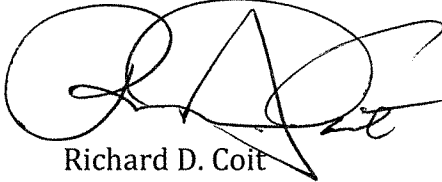
6. In addition, if Wide Voice is seeking a statewide certificate of authority for its services, the provisions of SDCL § 49-31-70 and ARSD 20:10:32:04 are applicable and require that notice of the Application be provided to other, already certified local exchange carriers.

7. SDTA seeks intervention herein based on the individual interests of each of its member rural local exchange carriers and based on their common interests to ensure that the rural safeguard provisions contained in federal and state laws are properly considered and applied by the Commission.

8. Based on all of the foregoing, SDTA alleges that it is an interested party in this matter and would seek intervening party status.

Dated this 30 day of February, 2017.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Richard D. Coit", written over a large, stylized circular scribble.

Richard D. Coit  
Executive Director and General Counsel