

**BEFORE THE
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY
ON BEHALF OF
PEERLESS NETWORK OF SOUTH DAKOTA, LLC**

REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT OF INFORMATION

Peerless Network of South Dakota, LLC (“Peerless” or “Applicant”), pursuant to South Dakota rule 20:10:01:41, and all other applicable rules, statutes and regulations, hereby files this Request for Confidential Treatment of Information (“Request”). Applicant seeks protective treatment by the South Dakota Public Service Commission (“Commission”) of certain commercially-sensitive financial statements attached as Exhibit D to the Application for a Certificate of Authority (“Application”). Because this Motion is an inseparable part of the Application, it is being filed concurrently therewith.

In support of this Motion, the Applicant provides the following:

1. The person to be contacted regarding the confidentiality request is:

Julie Oost, Vice President Regulatory Affairs
Peerless Network of South Dakota, LLC
222 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2730
Chicago, IL 60606
Telephone: (312) 878-4137
Facsimile: (312) 757-4874
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I. Description of Confidential Information.

3. The Application requires Applicant to disclose evidence of financial fitness through the submission of documentation of its financial resources and ability to provide the requested service. Since Applicant is a wholly-owned of Peerless Network, Inc., the Applicant submits copies of Peerless Network, Inc.'s financial statements to conform to this requirement. These

documents contain highly confidential and strictly proprietary information, the public disclosure of which may result in direct, immediate and substantial harm to the competitive position of Peerless Network, Inc. and the Applicant in South Dakota and elsewhere.

II. Grounds for Claim of Confidentiality.

4. Applicant and Peerless Network, Inc. are presently immune from a legal obligation to prepare or submit financial statements, or any other financial information, to any public entity. As such, statements attached as Exhibit D to the Application are not readily available to persons external to Applicant and Peerless Network, Inc.

5. Because the financial statements submitted by Applicant in support of the Application contain confidential and commercially-sensitive information from which its competitors may derive economic value, Applicant seeks to protect such material from public disclosure. Applicant and Peerless Network, Inc. derive independent economic value from the fact that significant, detailed and proprietary information regarding their financial structure and current financing activities is unknown to its competitors. Given this fact, the disclosure of this information could provide existing and potential competitors, including local exchange and interexchange carriers in South Dakota, as well as in other states in which Applicant provides or intends to provide telecommunications service, with an unfair and undeserved competitive advantage.

6. Applicant clarifies herein that its request for protection applies only to the financial statements attached as Exhibit D to the Application. Applicant request confidential treatment until the conclusion of this proceeding. Applicant further requests that at the conclusion of this proceeding, Confidential Exhibit D be destroyed or returned to Applicant.

CONCLUSION

7. The financial information included in support of Applicant's Application, for which Confidential Treatment is sought, is both proprietary and competitively sensitive. The substantial and direct harm that could be caused to Applicant and Peerless Network, Inc. as a result of disclosure is real and not speculative. For these reasons, the financial statements attached as Exhibit D to the Application should be protected from public disclosure the Commission.

WHEREFORE, Peerless Network of South Dakota, LLC respectfully requests that the Commission grant this Request with respect to the financial statements attached as Exhibit D to the Application and filed under seal as Confidential in this proceeding.

DocuSigned by:
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Dated: October 31, 2017