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March 9, 2005

VIA OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

Ms. Pamela Bonrud
Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol Avenue
Ave-Pierre, SD 57501-5070
(605) 773-3201

RECEIVED
MAR 10 2005
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Re: Budget Phone, Inc.
Docket No. TC04-260

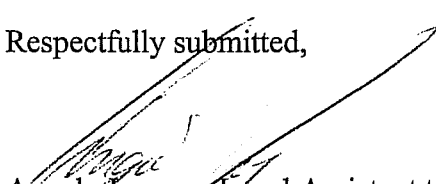
Dear Ms. Bonrud:

Pursuant to staff request, enclosed please find for filing an original and ten (10) copies of Budget Phone, Inc.'s Idemnity Bond in the amount of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000). Also, Budget Phone, Inc. has obtained a South Dakota Sales Tax License. Their South Dakota Tax ID Number is 73-001-721335380E-ST-001.

I have also enclosed an extra copy of this letter to be date-stamped and returned to me in the enclosed pre-addressed, postage-prepaid envelope.

If you have any questions or if I may provide you with any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,


Angela Janssen, Legal Assistant to
Lance J.M. Steinhart
Attorney for Budget Phone, Inc.

Enclosures

cc: Leigh Woodruff

P. 02

IDEMNITY BOND
TO THE
PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

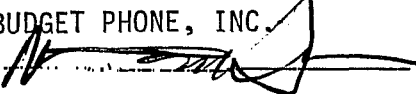
Bond No. 39S103668774BCM

We, Budget Phone, Inc., the principal and applicant for a CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY to provide local and long distance telecommunications services within the State of South Dakota, and Travelers Casualty & Surety Company of America, as an admitted surety insurer, bind ourselves unto the Public Utilities Commission of the State of South Dakota and the consumers of South Dakota as Obligees, in the sum of \$25,000.00.

The conditions of the obligation are such that the principal, having been granted such CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY subject to the provision that said principal purchase this Indemnity Bond, and if said principal shall in all respects fully and faithfully comply with all applicable provisions of South Dakota State Law, and reimburse customers of Budget Phone, for any prepayment or deposits they have made which may be unable or unwilling to return to said customers as a result of insolvency or other business failure, then this obligation shall be void, discharged and forever exonerated, otherwise to remain in full force and effect.

This bond shall take effect as of the date hereon and shall remain in force and effect until the surety is released from liability by the written order of the Public Utilities Commission, provided that the surety may cancel this Bond and be relieved of further liability hereunder by delivering thirty (30) days written notice to the Public Utilities Commission. Such cancellation shall not affect any liability incurred or accrued hereunder prior to the termination of said thirty (30) day period.

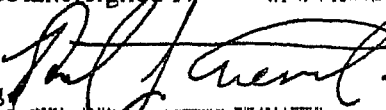
Dated this 17th day of January, 200X5
To be effective this 17th day of January, 200X 5

BUDGET PHONE, INC.
By 

TRAVELERS CASUALTY & SURETY COMPANY OF AMERICA

Countersigned this 4th day of
March, 200X5

Countersigned for South Dakota

By 

Resident Agent

Jean Miller
Holmes Murphy & Company
600 S. Cliff Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57102

By _____

Kay J. Harrison - Attorney-in-Fact



Attorney in Fact

**TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY OF AMERICA
TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY
FARMINGTON CASUALTY COMPANY
Hartford, Connecticut 06183-9062**

POWER OF ATTORNEY AND CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY OF ATTORNEY(S)-IN-FACT

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, THAT TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY OF AMERICA, TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY and FARMINGTON CASUALTY COMPANY, corporations duly organized under the laws of the State of Connecticut, and having their principal offices in the City of Hartford, County of Hartford, State of Connecticut, (hereinafter the "Companies") hath made, constituted and appointed, and do by these presents make, constitute and appoint: Jerry W. Thomas, Joseph P. Farr, Michelle Jeanmard, Kay J. Harrison, Nina G. Bennett, Christy S. Dollins, of Monroe, Louisiana, their true and lawful Attorney(s)-in-Fact, with full power and authority hereby conferred to sign, execute and acknowledge, at any place within the United States, the following instrument(s): by his/her sole signature and act, any and all bonds, recognizances, contracts of indemnity, and other writings obligatory in the nature of a bond, recognizance, or conditional undertaking and any and all consents incident thereto and to bind the Companies, thereby as fully and to the same extent as if the same were signed by the duly authorized officers of the Companies, and all the acts of said Attorney(s)-in-Fact, pursuant to the authority herein given, are hereby ratified and confirmed.

This appointment is made under and by authority of the following Standing Resolutions of said Companies, which Resolutions are now in full force and effect:

VOTED: That the Chairman, the President, any Vice Chairman, any Executive Vice President, any Senior Vice President, any Vice President, any Second Vice President, the Treasurer, any Assistant Treasurer, the Corporate Secretary or any Assistant Secretary may appoint Attorneys-in-Fact and Agents to act for and on behalf of the company and may give such appointee such authority as his or her certificate of authority may prescribe to sign with the Company's name and seal with the Company's seal bonds, recognizances, contracts of indemnity, and other writings obligatory in the nature of a bond, recognizance, or conditional undertaking, and any of said officers or the Board of Directors at any time may remove any such appointee and revoke the power given him or her.

VOTED: That the Chairman, the President, any Vice Chairman, any Executive Vice President, any Senior Vice President or any Vice President may delegate all or any part of the foregoing authority to one or more officers or employees of this Company, provided that each such delegation is in writing and a copy thereof is filed in the office of the Secretary.

VOTED: That any bond, recognizance, contract of indemnity, or writing obligatory in the nature of a bond, recognizance, or conditional undertaking shall be valid and binding upon the Company when (a) signed by the President, any Vice Chairman, any Executive Vice President, any Senior Vice President or any Vice President, any Second Vice President, the Treasurer, any Assistant Treasurer, the Corporate Secretary or any Assistant Secretary and duly attested and sealed with the Company's seal by a Secretary or Assistant Secretary, or (b) duly executed (under seal, if required) by one or more Attorneys-in-Fact and Agents pursuant to the power prescribed in his or her certificate or their certificates of authority or by one or more Company officers pursuant to a written delegation of authority.

This Power of Attorney and Certificate of Authority is signed and sealed by facsimile (mechanical or printed) under and by authority of the following Standing Resolution voted by the Boards of Directors of TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY OF AMERICA, TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY and FARMINGTON CASUALTY COMPANY, which Resolution is now in full force and effect:

VOTED: That the signature of each of the following officers: President, any Executive Vice President, any Senior Vice President, any Vice President, any Assistant Vice President, any Secretary, any Assistant Secretary, and the seal of the Company may be affixed by facsimile to any power of attorney or to any certificate relating thereto appointing Resident Vice Presidents, Resident Assistant Secretaries or Attorneys-in-Fact for purposes only of executing and attesting bonds and undertakings and other writings obligatory in the nature thereof, and any such power of attorney or certificate bearing such facsimile signature or facsimile seal shall be valid and binding upon the Company and any such power so executed and certified by such facsimile signature and facsimile seal shall be valid and binding upon the Company in the future with respect to any bond or undertaking to which it is attached.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY OF AMERICA, TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY and FARMINGTON CASUALTY COMPANY have caused this instrument to be signed by their Senior Vice President and their corporate seals to be hereto affixed this 14th day of October, 2002.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

}SS. Hartford

COUNTY OF HARTFORD

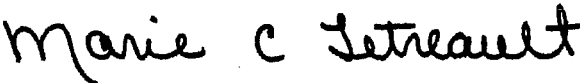
TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY OF AMERICA
TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY
FARMINGTON CASUALTY COMPANY



By 
George W. Thompson
Senior Vice President

On this 14th day of October, 2002 before me personally came **GEORGE W. THOMPSON** to me known, who, being by me duly sworn, did depose and say: that he/she is Senior Vice President of **TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY OF AMERICA, TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY and FARMINGTON CASUALTY COMPANY**, the corporations described in and which executed the above instrument; that he/she knows the seals of said corporations; that the seals affixed to the said instrument are such corporate seals; and that he/she executed the said instrument on behalf of the corporations by authority of his/her office under the Standing Resolutions thereof.



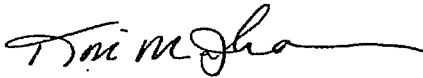

My commission expires June 30, 2006 Notary Public
Marie C. Tetreault

CERTIFICATE

I, the undersigned, Assistant Secretary of **TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY OF AMERICA, TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY and FARMINGTON CASUALTY COMPANY**, stock corporations of the State of Connecticut, **DO HEREBY CERTIFY** that the foregoing and attached Power of Attorney and Certificate of Authority remains in full force and has not been revoked; and furthermore, that the Standing Resolutions of the Boards of Directors, as set forth in the Certificate of Authority, are now in force.

Signed and Sealed at the Home Office of the Company, in the City of Hartford, State of Connecticut. Dated this 17th day of January, 2005



By 
Kori M. Johanson
Assistant Secretary, Bond