

**Qwest Corporation**  
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**Jason D. Topp**  
Corporate Counsel

200 South 5th Street, Room 2200  
Minneapolis, MN 55402



May 12, 2011

Patricia Van Gerpen  
Executive Director  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: Amendment to Qwest Local Services Platform Agreement between  
Qwest Corporation and Ionex Communications North, Inc. dba Birch  
Communications

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

Enclosed for your information is an executed copy of an Amendment to Qwest Local Services Platform Agreement between Qwest Corporation ("Qwest") and Ionex Communications North, Inc. dba Birch Communications ("Ionex"), which was submitted for information only to the Commission on December 15, 2010, with an effective date of December 1, 2010.

The Amendment modifies terms and conditions of Attachment 2 and Exhibit A of the Agreement.

Contact information for Ionex is as follows:

Chris Bunce  
Ionex Communications North, Inc.  
dba Birch Communications  
2300 Main Street, Suite 600  
Kansas City, MO 64108  
(816) 300-3322  
[chris.bunce@birch.com](mailto:chris.bunce@birch.com)

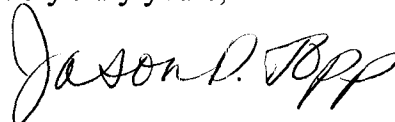
Patricia Van Gerpen

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Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason D. Topp". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

Jason D. Topp

JDT/bardm

Enclosure

cc: Chris Bunce (via e-mail)

**AMENDMENT TO  
QWEST LOCAL SERVICES PLATFORM™ AGREEMENT**

This amendment ("Amendment"), by and between **Qwest Corporation ("Qwest")**, a Colorado corporation, and **Ionex Communications North, Inc. dba Birch Communications ("CLEC")**, a South Dakota corporation, amends the Qwest Local Services Platform™ ("QLSP™") Agreement between the Parties.

WHEREAS, the Parties entered into a Qwest Local Services Platform™ ("QLSP™") Agreement ("Agreement") with an Effective Date of December 1, 2010; and

WHEREAS, the Parties agree to amend the Agreement under the terms and conditions contained herein.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and the mutual terms, covenants and conditions contained in this Amendment and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows:

**Amendment Terms**

The Agreement is hereby amended by modifying the following terms and conditions of Attachment 2 and Exhibit A.

1. The last sentence of Sections 1.5.2, 3.8.3 and 3.8.5 of Attachment 2 to the Agreement shall be deleted and replaced with the following:

"The Parties understand and agree that the Services include tandem switching, where required, as well as end office switching and that CLEC has the right to charge switched access to IXCs for each element, as appropriate."

2. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Agreement, the rate sheet(s) attached hereto as Exhibit A shall apply to port rates for Services provided in the applicable state(s) identified therein. Except as expressly modified by this Amendment, all other rates reflected in the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.
3. The last sentence of Section 3.4.1 of Attachment 2 to the Agreement is hereby deleted in its entirety.

For the avoidance of doubt, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Agreement by which port rates could be increased, other than as amended hereby, port rates shall remain unchanged throughout the term of the Agreement (as such term is identified in Section 3 of the Agreement), except that the Parties understand and agree that the terms and conditions of the Agreement regarding the annual variable discount structure associated with CLEC growth and retention thresholds shall continue to apply throughout the term of the Agreement.

**Effective Date**

This Amendment shall be deemed effective upon signature by both Parties.

**Further Amendments**


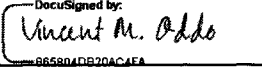
Except as expressly modified by this Amendment, the provisions of the Agreement shall remain unmodified and shall be in full force and effect. The provisions of this Amendment, including the provisions of this sentence, may not be amended, modified or supplemented, and waivers or consents to departures from the provisions of this Amendment may not be given without the written consent thereto by both of the Parties hereto. No waiver by any Party of any default, misrepresentation, or breach of warranty or covenant hereunder, whether intentional or not, will be deemed to extend to any prior or subsequent default, misrepresentation, or breach of warranty or covenant hereunder or affect in any way any rights arising by virtue of any prior or subsequent such occurrence.

**Entire Agreement**

The Agreement as amended (including by the documents referred to herein) constitutes the full and entire understanding and agreement between the Parties with regard to the subject matter of the Agreement, as amended, and supersedes any prior understandings, agreements, or representations by or between the Parties, written or oral, to the extent they relate in any way to the subject matter of the Agreement, as amended.

**AMENDMENT TO  
QWEST LOCAL SERVICES PLATFORM™ AGREEMENT**

The Parties intending to be legally bound have executed this Amendment as of the dates set forth below, in multiple counterparts, each of which is deemed an original, but all of which shall constitute one and the same instrument.

<b>Qwest Corporation:</b>  By: <u></u> Name: <u>L. T. Christensen</u> Title: <u>Director – Wholesale Contracts</u> Date: <u>5/6/2011</u>	<b>Ionex Communications North, Inc. dba Birch Communications:</b>  By: <u></u> Name: <u>Vincent M. Oddo</u> Title: <u>President &amp; CEO</u> Date: <u>5/6/2011</u>
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**Qwest Local Services Platform™ (QLSP™) Rate Page - Minnesota  
Modified Local Switching Port Rate**

	USOC	Recurring	Non-Recurring	Notes
<b>109.11 Local Switching Purchased As Part of QLSP™</b>				
<b>109.11.1 Ports, Basic Plan</b>				
109.11.1.1 Analog Port		\$10.75		
109.11.1.2 Residential end user credit	LAWUR	(\$4.03)		1
109.11.1.3 Effective QLSP™ Residential Analog Port		\$6.72		1
109.11.1.4 Digital Port (Supporting BRI ISDN)		\$16.99		
109.11.1.5 PBX DID Port		\$10.58		
<b>109.11.2 Ports, If 80% YOY Volume Retention Plan Requirements Are Met</b>				
109.11.2.1 Analog Port		\$10.21		
109.11.2.2 Analog Port, Residential end user credit	LAWUR	(\$3.56)		
109.11.2.3 Effective QLSP™ Residential Analog Port		\$6.65		
109.11.2.4 Digital Port (Supporting BRI ISDN)		\$16.99		
109.11.2.5 PBX DID Port		\$10.58		
<b>109.11.3 Ports, If 90% YOY Volume Retention Plan Requirements Are Met</b>				
109.11.3.1 Analog Port		\$9.68		
109.11.3.2 Analog Port, Residential end user credit	LAWUR	(\$3.09)		1
109.11.3.3 Effective QLSP™ Residential Analog Port		\$6.59		1
109.11.3.4 Digital Port (Supporting BRI ISDN)		\$16.99		
109.11.3.5 PBX DID Port		\$10.58		
<b>109.11.4 Intentionally Blank</b>				
<b>109.11.5 Ports, If 115% YOY Volume Growth Plan Requirements Are Met</b>				
109.11.5.1 Analog Port		\$7.53		
109.11.5.2 Analog Port, Residential end user credit	LAWUR	(\$1.21)		1
109.11.5.3 Effective QLSP™ Residential Analog Port		\$6.32		1
109.11.5.4 Digital Port (Supporting BRI ISDN)		\$16.99		
109.11.5.5 PBX DID Port		\$10.58		
<b>109.11.6 Intentionally Blank</b>				

**Notes:**

- 1** QLSP™ Business and Residential services utilize the same Class of Service and line Universal Service Order codes (USOCs). QLSP™ Residential services will be billed at the Analog Port rate and only those lines that specifically qualify for and are identified as serving a residential end-user customer by the presence of the LAWUR USOC will receive the Residential end user credit.

**Qwest Local Services Platform™ (QLSP™) Rate Page - Nebraska  
Modified Local Switching Port Rate**

	USOC	Recurring	Non-Recurring	Notes
<b>109.11 Local Switching Purchased As Part of QLSP™</b>				
<b>109.11.1 Ports, Basic Plan</b>				
109.11.1.1 Analog Port		\$9.43		
109.11.1.2 Residential end user credit	LAWUR	(\$5.16)		1
109.11.1.3 Effective QLSP™ Residential Analog Port		\$4.27		1
109.11.1.4 Digital Port (Supporting BRI ISDN)		\$15.54		
109.11.1.5 PBX DID Port		\$9.96		
<b>109.11.2 Intentionally Left Blank</b>				
<b>109.11.3 Ports, If 90% YOY Volume Retention Plan Requirements Are Met</b>				
109.11.3.1 Analog Port		\$8.49		
109.11.3.2 Analog Port, Residential end user credit	LAWUR	(\$4.30)		1
109.11.3.3 Effective QLSP™ Residential Analog Port		\$4.18		1
109.11.3.4 Digital Port (Supporting BRI ISDN)		\$15.54		
109.11.3.5 PBX DID Port		\$9.96		
<b>109.11.4 Intentionally Left Blank</b>				
<b>109.11.5 Ports, If 115% YOY Volume Growth Plan Requirements Are Met</b>				
109.11.5.1 Analog Port		\$6.60		
109.11.5.2 Analog Port, Residential end user credit	LAWUR	(\$2.59)		1
109.11.5.3 Effective QLSP™ Residential Analog Port		\$4.01		1
109.11.5.4 Digital Port (Supporting BRI ISDN)		\$15.54		
109.11.5.5 PBX DID Port		\$9.96		
<b>109.11.6 Intentionally Left Blank</b>				

**Notes:**

- 1 QLSP™ Business and Residential services utilize the same Class of Service and line Universal Service Order codes (USOCs). QLSP™ Residential services will be billed at the Analog Port rate and only those lines that specifically qualify for and are identified as serving a residential end-user customer by the presence of the LAWUR USOC will receive the Residential end user credit.