



May 1st, 2019

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

**RE: Farmers Mutual Telephone Company, South Dakota Annual Eligible
Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) Certification Filing Waiver**

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

Farmers Mutual Telephone Company (FMTC) respectfully requests a waiver of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission's (Commission) filing requirements under ARSD 20:10:32:56 of the Commission rules. FMTC currently has 14 voice subscribers in the West Marietta exchange and finds the ETC certification process in South Dakota to be unduly burdensome and unnecessary for 14 customers. FMTC files annually with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for ETC Certification and believes their review and approval of FMTC's ETC filing for the majority of subscribers should be sufficient. A copy of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Order Certifying ETCs issued October 24, 2018 that includes the listing of FMTC is attached.

As the General Manager, I affirm that FMTC utilized the universal service funds received in 2018 and will spend the 2020 funds for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which such support is intended. FMTC has completed its broadband fiber deployment to its customers in South Dakota so not much funding will be spent directly on these 14 customers but rather for the equipment provisioned to provide service to our entire study area.

FMTC was previously designated an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) by the Commission in the past and requests the Commission include FMTC in its certification to the Universal Service Administrative Company and the Federal Communications Commission based on this request.

If you have any questions about this filing, please contact Mary T. Buley at Olson & Thielen, Inc, mbuley@otcpas.com or at 651-621-8306.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Beyer", written over a horizontal line.

Kevin Beyer, General Manager
Farmers Mutual Telephone Company

Enclosure

CC: Mary T. Buley, Olson & Thielen Inc.