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South Dakota

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March 8, 2024

Patricia Van Gerpen
Executive Director
Public Utilities Commission
500 E. Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: South Dakota Telecom Association's Motion to Defer in Docket No. TC23-046

Ms. Van Gerpen,

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Staff (Staff) hereby submits this Letter in Support of the South Dakota Telecommunications Association's (SDTA) Motion to Defer. On March 7, 2024, North American Local, LLC (NAL) emailed its *Notice of Appearance and Comments of North American Local and Opposition to SD Telecommunications Association's Motion to Dismiss and Compel Responses to Discovery*. This email was sent to Staff and SDTA but the documents have not been filed with the Commission as of yet. Staff believes this email is an indication that NAL plans to file its response with the Commission prior to the March 12 Commission meeting.

The procedural schedule in this matter contemplated that SDTA would have eight business days to review and reply to briefs. NAL provided these documents just two business days before the Motions are scheduled to be heard. Staff acknowledges that SDTA has an interest in replying to NAL's Comments and Staff believes it is unfair for SDTA to be forced into a condensed timeline through no fault of SDTA's own. Additionally, granting the Motion to Defer would allow the Commission to conduct a proper review of the matter, especially because the documents have not been filed with the Commission yet.

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