

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF)
ASSURANCE WIRELESS USA L.P. FOR DESIGNATION AS)
AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER IN)
THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA FOR THE PURPOSE) Docket No. TC24-002
OF OFFERING LIFELINE SERVICE TO)
QUALIFYING CUSTOMERS)**

SDTA Petition to Intervene

The South Dakota Telecommunications association (“SDTA”) hereby petitions the Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) for intervention in the above captioned proceeding pursuant to SDCL 1-26-17.1 and ARSD 20:10:01:15.02, 20:10:01:15.3, 20:10:01:15.04 and 20:10:01:15.05. In support hereof, SDTA states as follows:

1. SDTA is an incorporated organization representing the interests of numerous cooperative, independent and municipal telephone companies operating throughout the State of South Dakota.

2. On or about January 12, 2024, Assurance Wireless USA, L.P. (“Assurance” or “Petitioner”) filed a Petition with the Commission seeking designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”) for the purpose of offering Lifeline service in the State of South Dakota.

3. The Petitioner is an indirect subsidiary of T-Mobile USA, Inc. and will use T-Mobile facilities to provide services in South Dakota. As a such, Assurance requests ETC designation in T-Mobile wireless coverage areas, exclusive of Tribal lands.

4. All SDTA member companies operate as “rural telephone companies” and “eligible telecommunications carriers” under the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 and

applicable state laws. Assurance requests ETC designation in SDTA company rural telephone service/study areas in South Dakota. SDTA member companies will be impacted. SDTA, therefore, seeks intervention based on the individual interests of each of its affected member companies and their common interests. SDTA member companies have an interest in ensuring that all federal and state requirements pertaining to ETC designation, including the additional public interest protections afforded rural telephone company service areas, are properly considered and applied.

5. Based on the foregoing, SDTA alleges that it is an interested party in this matter, and it seeks intervening party status.

Dated this 15 day of January 2024.

/s/ Kara Semmler

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