

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

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF</b>	)	
<b>ASSURANCE WIRELESS USA L.P. TO EXPAND ITS</b>	)	
<b>ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER</b>	)	
<b>DESIGNATED SERVICE AREA TO INCLUDE</b>	)	<b>Docket No. TC25-003</b>
<b>TRIBAL LANDS</b>	)	
	)	

**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. SDTA intervened and was granted party status by the Commission in TC24-002, the docket Petitioner references and relies upon in this filing.
3. All SDTA member companies operate as “rural telephone companies” and "eligible telecommunications carriers" under the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 and applicable state laws. In this filing, just as it did in TC24-002, 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.

4. 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 9 day of May 2025.

/s/ Kara Semmler

Kara Semmler, General Counsel  
South Dakota Telecommunications Association  
PO Box 57  
320 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501-0057  
[karasemmler@sdtaonline.com](mailto:karasemmler@sdtaonline.com)