**Southern Linc**

**Tami M. Barron**
President and
Chief Executive Officer

5555 Glenridge Connector
Suite 500
Atlanta, GA 30342
678 443 1500     tel

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*Via Electronic Filing*

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

> **Re:    Special Temporary Authority for Southern Linc in Puerto Rico**

Dear Ms. Dortch,

On behalf of Southern Communications Services, Inc. d/b/a Southern Linc, I'm writing to extend our sincere appreciation to the Federal Communications Commission (the "Commission") and staff for expeditiously reviewing and granting Southern Linc's Special Temporary Authority ("STA") to operate in Puerto Rico. Southern Linc's STA application was filed during the holiday season on Thursday, December 28, 2017, and the Commission granted the request in less than one week, on Wednesday, January 3, 2018.

The Commission's fast action enabled Southern Linc to participate in Southern Company's efforts to restore power to remote regions of Puerto Rico. Southern Linc personnel joined Southern Company's restoration teams of over 230 employees over several months. Southern Linc's telecommunications services enabled the power restoration teams to communicate with each other and coordinate work in the Mayaguez and Barranquitas regions, regions that are very mountainous and particularly challenging from a construction and restoration standpoint. Southern Linc's telecommunications services also enabled restoration team members to coordinate with headquarters and communicate with family back home.

This ability to communicate was greatly appreciated by restoration team members, especially given that some worked 54 days straight on the island before returning home. Southern Company restoration teams helped to restore power to over 10,000 customers by helping to replace over 800 poles, 2,000 spans, and 100 transformers.

Thank you for enabling Southern Linc to provide necessary telecommunications services in Puerto Rico to assist Southern Company in restoring power to so many in need.

Sincerely,

Tami Maxwell Barron