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7852 Walker Drive, Suite 200  
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770  
phone: 301-459-7590, fax: 301-577-5575  
internet: [www.jsitel.com](http://www.jsitel.com), e-mail: [jsi@jsitel.com](mailto:jsi@jsitel.com)

**VIA ECFS**

July 1, 2016

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Attention: Wireline Competition Bureau

**Re: Supplement to Mutual Telephone Company of Sioux Center, Iowa d/b/a  
Premier Communications and Winnebago Cooperative Telecom Association  
Joint Petition for Study Area Waiver  
CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Mutual Telephone Company of Sioux Center, Iowa d/b/a Premier Communications and Winnebago Cooperative Telecom Association, JSI hereby supplements the Joint Petition for Waiver of the Definition of “Study Area” of the Appendix-Glossary of Part 36 of the Commission’s Rules.<sup>1</sup> The attached letter from the Iowa Utilities Board (“Board”) is provided to establish that the Board is the only state commission with regulatory authority over the exchanges to be transferred, and that there are no objections to the proposed transfer of exchanges in the proceeding before the Board.

Inquiries may be directed to the undersigned consultant for the Joint Petitioners.

Sincerely,

John Kuykendall  
Vice President  
[jkuykendall@jsitel.com](mailto:jkuykendall@jsitel.com)

Attachment

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<sup>1</sup> Mutual Telephone Company of Sioux Center, Iowa d/b/a Premier Communication and Winnebago Cooperative Telecomm Association for Waiver, CC Docket No. 96-45 (filed May 3, 2016) (Petition).



## Iowa Utilities Board

Governor Terry E. Branstad  
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds

Gerri D. Huser, Chair  
Elizabeth S. Jacobs, Board Member  
Nick Wagner, Board Member

July 1, 2016

Davis Brown Law Firm  
Attn: John Pietila, Attorney  
215 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1300  
Des Moines, IA 50309

Re: Study Area Waiver Request

On May 3, 2016, Mutual Telephone Company of Sioux Center, Iowa d/b/a Premier Communications ("Mutual"), Winnebago Cooperative Telecom Association ("Winnebago"), Consolidated Communications, Inc. ("Consolidated Parent") and Consolidated Communications of Iowa Company f/k/a Heartland Telecommunications Company of Iowa ("Consolidated ILEC") filed with the Board a Joint Notice of Transfer of Control Transaction and Notice of Name Change, Joint Application for Approval of Transfer of Assets and Customer Base and Modification of Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity and Joint Request to Amend ETC Status (the "Application"). The Application was assigned Docket Number SPU-2016-0006.

On June 2, 2016, the Board issued an Order Docketing for Further Investigation, in order to allow sufficient time for the proper evaluation of the Application, including certain ancillary filings which have yet to be submitted.

In connection with the transactions described in the Application, the Board understands that the parties are seeking a waiver from the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") of the FCC's study area freeze rule. The Board is the only state commission with regulatory authority over the exchange areas affected by the proposed waiver request and there appears to be no objection or opposition to the requested study area waiver.

This statement is given without prejudice to the Board's jurisdiction or authority over other elements of the transactions described in the Application. As set forth in its Order Docketing for Further Investigation, the Board continues its evaluation of the Application and has yet to make any final determination regarding final approval of the transactions described therein.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Smith, Manager  
Telecommunications Section