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September 27, 2018

**Via Electronic Filing and Overnight Mail**

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

Karen Majcher  
Vice President, High Cost & Low Income Division  
Universal Service Administration Company  
2000 L Street, NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20036  
E-Mail: [hccerts@usac.org](mailto:hccerts@usac.org)

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45/WC Docket No. 10-90, Annual State  
Certification of Support for Eligible Telecommunications Carriers  
Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.314

New Jersey Board of Public Utilities' Annual Certification for United Telephone  
Company of New Jersey, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink

Dear Ms. Dortch and Ms. Majcher:

On July 2, 2018, United Telephone Company of New Jersey, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink filed a verified petition with the Board requesting that the Board, pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.314(d), certify to the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") and the Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC") that all federal high cost support ("HCS") funds provided to CenturyLink within New Jersey were used in the preceding calendar year and will be used in the coming calendar year 2018 only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. The report concerning its use of federal high cost support funds contained 2018 data for cost support, and 2019 data for cost support and proforma, an Affidavit of newspaper publication and reports to satisfy requirements of FCC Form 481 and Board requirements.

The certification requested by CenturyLink is to be filed by the Board with the FCC by October 1, 2018 in order for Eligible Telecommunications Carriers ("ETC") to receive its full allocation of funds under the requirements imposed by the FCC.

The Board certified CenturyLink as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e). See Order of Approval, I/M/O a Petition by United Telephone Company of New Jersey, Inc. for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Docket No. TO97110828 (December 16, 1998). Under the Act, certification as an Eligible Telecommunications carrier is necessary in order to receive federal Universal Service Support high cost funds. 47 U.S.C § 254(e). CenturyLink is an incumbent Local Exchange Carrier ("ILEC") providing service to customers in portions of Hunterdon, Somerset, Morris and Warren Counties.

The FCC's rule at 47 C.F.R. § 54.314(a) requires that, in order for CenturyLink to receive federal high cost support funds, the Board must file an annual certification with the Universal Service Support ("USS") Fund Administrator and state to the FCC that "all federal high-cost support provided to [CenturyLink] within New Jersey will be used only for provision, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended" no later than October 1, 2018.

CenturyLink has filed the following information:

- A- Confidential and Public version of semi-annual report with Cost Support Response Form for 2018 and supporting schedules of CenturyLink prepared as of December 21, 2017.
- B- Cost support response form and supporting schedules for 2018 pro forma and 2019 projected as of July 2, 2018.
- C- Affidavit of Jerry M. Allen, Vice President of Customer Financial Services, certifying that federal high cost support funds received by CenturyLink in calendar years 2018 and 2019 have been and will be used in compliance with applicable consumer protection rules, with service quality standards, emergency carrier certification, frozen support certification, and accuracy of annual reporting of Connect America Fund recipients Certification.
- D- An affidavit of Thomas A. Bailey of CenturyLink showing CenturyLink annual report filing of FCC Form 481. The report provides service quality improvement reporting, outage reporting, conditions for lifeline customers and other pertinent broadband and voice data.
- E- Proof of Newspaper publication of Notice of this filing on July 12, 2018 in the Hunterdon County Democrat, The NJ Herald, and Warren Reporter.

Having reviewed the petition and the information submitted in support thereof pursuant to the requirements of 47 C.F.R. § 54.314, upon review of the complaints filed per lines reported by CenturyLink and finding that no party commented on CenturyLink's continued use of federal USHCS funds after newspaper publication, Board staff submits that CenturyLink used in 2018 and will use in 2019, the federal funds it receives for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and

services for which such support is intended as required by section 254( e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and 47 C.F.R. § 54.101 et. Seq.

Staff therefore files this Letter of Approval and Certification with both the Office of the Secretary of the FCC and the USF Administrator to serve as compliance with the requirements set forth in 47 C.F.R. 54.314.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lawanda R. Gilbert".

Lawanda R. Gilbert, Director  
Office of Cable Television & Telecommunications

LRG/tc