

December 17, 2018

**VIA ECFS**

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: In the Matter of Request for Review by Brazoria Telephone Company of Decision of Universal Service Administrator ("USAC"), CC Docket No. 02-6

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The following information is provided to appeal the denial of Form 474 invoice that was rejected by USAC due to notification of denial not being received by Brazoria Telephone Company regarding an error on a submitted Form 474 invoice. Through this letter, Brazoria Telephone Company provides required and explanatory information to show good cause for granting an extension of the 2017 invoicing deadline.

***Service Provider Contact Information:***

Service Provider Name	Brazoria Telephone Company
SPIN Number	Brazoria Telephone Company – 143002410
Contact Person	Gilbert Rasco, Vice President of Operations
Contact Information	314 West Texas St. PO Box 2008 Brazoria, Texas 77422 979-798-2121 <a href="mailto:gil@btel.com">gil@btel.com</a>

### ***III. Good Cause for Granting the Appeal:***

1. This is the first time that Brazoria Telephone Company has requested an extension in its many years of participation in the E-rate program. USAC's procedures allow for applicants to request a single, one-time extension of up to 120 days past the invoice deadline; however, Brazoria Telephone Company was not aware the invoice had been denied to be able to implement this option. Brazoria Telephone Company would have corrected the invoice or requested an invoice extension if they had received notification of the denial. Brazoria Telephone Company submitted the original invoice on 10/8/2018 well before the 10/29/2018 invoice deadline.

2. Brazoria Telephone Company relies on E-rate funding to offset the support for telecommunications and internet access service costs for the services provided to Sweeny ISD - Billed Entity Number: 141301. As reflected in Attachment A herein, the rejected invoice results in \$36,300.00 in committed reimbursements for funding year 2017. Losing this amount of E-rate funding would cause significant financial harm to Brazoria Telephone Company.

3. Mr. Rasco learned of the unpaid invoice when notified by his Comptroller, Jonathan Champagne who realized that no E-rate monies had been received from USAC for this FRN. At that time 12/11/2018, Gil Rasco inquired with USAC about the missing payment and learned that the invoice had been denied.

Mr. Rasco then contacted USAC again for assistance on 12/12/2018, and was advised to submit a request for an FCC waiver for an invoice extension. At that time, he was also told the denial was on 10/11/2018 and that he would need to submit a formal request to USAC for a Quarterly Disbursement Form for the 4th quarter of 2017 which would contain the notification of denial for this invoice. Mr. Rasco has not received the notification and in an effort to file this request as soon as possible, the denial notification is not available to provide to you at this time. Mr. Rasco would have certainly had time to submit a corrected invoice before the deadline of October 29, 2018, had he received the denial notification. In this call, Mr. Rasco mentioned to the USAC representative that he did not see the denial in his EPC Portal and was told it was two different systems so the status of an invoice would not be found there.

### ***IV. Relief Being Sought Through this Appeal:***

Through this request, and for all the aforementioned reasons, Brazoria Telephone Company respectfully requests that the FCC issue an extension for Brazoria Telephone Company's 2017 invoice to allow its funding requests to be honored by USAC. Brazoria Telephone Company is aware of the recent FCC decisions to deny invoice extension requests by numerous E-rate applicants and service providers. Through this request, Brazoria Telephone Company implores the FCC to exercise leniency due primarily to the fact that the tools relied upon for notification of the denial of invoices did not function properly. As such, Brazoria Telephone Company should not suffer the loss of committed E-rate dollars.

Your prompt and thorough attention to this request is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions related to this appeal, please contact the undersigned via the above-listed contact information.

Sincerely,

P.P. Terri DeLong, JSI

Mr. Gilbert Rasco, Vice President – Operations  
Brazoria Telephone Company

Enclosures

ATTACHMENT A

Summary of Rejected Invoice Amounts

FRN	471 Application Number	Establishing FCC Form 470 Number	Billed Entity Name	SPIN	Fund Year	486	Contract Exp or Svc End Date	Last Date to Invoice	FRN Committed Amount
						Service			
						Start Date			
1799074101	171033653	170063424	141301	DISTRICT	2017	8/1/2017	7/31/2018	10/29/2018	\$36,300.00