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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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March 17, 2015

Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D. C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 80-286 – Petition of Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Inc. for Waiver of 47 C.F.R. Sections 36.3; 36.123-126; 36.141; 36.152-157; 36.191 and 36.372-382 to Unfreeze Part 36 Category Relationships

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

Roughly two years ago, on March 15, 2013, I wrote a letter to the Commission in support of the petition filed on March 22, 2013, by Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Inc., (Pioneer). Granting of Pioneer's waiver would allow the Cooperative to more accurately assign its costs and investments to the proper jurisdiction. When filed in 2013, Pioneer's petition was also supported by the National Telephone Cooperative Association and USTelecom.

It is our understanding Pioneer's petition requests a waiver of an election it made pursuant to a 2001 Commission order which was to expire in 2006. However, 14 years later the Commission order has not expired and was recently extended for three more years. It is also our understanding the Commission has acted on two previously filed waiver requests.

In my May 15, 2013 letter, I encouraged the Commission to move forward in an expedited manner. Now, two years later, I am asking the Commission to look into this matter and advise me of the reason why Pioneer's petition has not been acted upon.

I would appreciate your prompt attention to my request.

Sincerely,



Frank D. Lucas
Member of Congress

DISTRICT OFFICE

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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

May 20, 2015

The Honorable Frank D. Lucas
U.S. House of Representatives
2311 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lucas:

Thank you for your letter supporting the petition of Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Inc., (Pioneer) for a waiver of the Commission's freeze on Part 36 category relationships. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

As you note, Pioneer's petition for waiver was placed on public notice and the comment cycles on the matter have been completed. The Commission's Wireline Competition Bureau (WCB) staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding. In addition, WCB staff recently met with representatives of Pioneer and had a productive discussion about the carrier's waiver petition. Per that meeting, the carrier is in the process of obtaining additional information to support its petition, and further meetings to discuss such material are planned. I can assure you that we will take into consideration the issues and concerns presented by all stakeholders as the Commission makes every effort to conclude its review as quickly and equitably as possible.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler".

Tom Wheeler