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July 23, 2013

## Via Electronic Filing

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
455 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

### Re: WC Docket No. 08-71 (*ex parte* communication)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I write to ask the Commission to act promptly on two pending waiver petitions filed by subsidiaries of Consolidated Communications Holdings in the above-referenced docket. These petitions seek to allow the companies to receive frozen universal service support payments that have been withheld by USAC since January 1, 2013.

1. By petition filed with the FCC on January 24, 2013, SureWest Telephone (“SureWest”) requested a waiver of the deadline under Section 54.314(d)(1) and (d)(2) of the Commission’s rules for filing a certification to receive high-cost support in 2013. Without the waiver, SureWest will not receive Interstate Common Line Support (“ICLS”) for the first and second quarters of 2013 – approximately \$2.5 million – for its ILEC study area in California.

2. By petition filed with the FCC on January 11, 2013, Consolidated Communications of Fort Bend Company (“Consolidated Fort Bend”) requested a waiver of Section 54.301(e)(1) of the Commission’s Rules requiring submission of true-up data used to adjust Local Switching Support (“LSS”) for calendar year 2011 by December 31, 2012. Without the waiver, Consolidated Fort Bend will lose an entire year’s worth of LSS support – approximately \$530,000 – and will be unable to recover its local switching costs for its ILEC study area in rural Texas.

Both of these petitions have completed their public notice periods, and no comments were received as to either of them. Each of the petitions sets forth the facts and circumstances establishing good cause for a waiver of the deadlines. The Commission’s delay in resolving these petitions is having a substantial impact on the subsidiaries’ cash flow for 2013 and may affect their ability to continue expanding the delivery of broadband services throughout their ILEC territories. I respectfully request that the Commission expedite action on these two matters, and permit Consolidated’s subsidiaries

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to receive all universal service payment that have been withheld from them since January 1, 2013.

Very truly yours,

*/electronically signed/*

Andrew D. Lipman

cc: Robert Currey  
Michael Shultz  
Rebekah Goodheart  
Julie Veach  
Carol Matthey  
Kim Scardino  
Amy Bender  
Alexander Minard

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