

BEFORE THE NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION IN CASE NO. PU-439-01-460  
AND BEFORE THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION IN WC DOCKET NO. 14-58

AFFIDAVIT OF VENTURE COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE REGARDING  
CERTIFICATION OF USE OF FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT

State of North Dakota )

County of Sargent )ss.

Randy W. Houdek, being first duly sworn on oath, does hereby declare and state upon affiant's own personal knowledge as follows:

1. Affiant is employed by Venture Communications Cooperative, (hereinafter, the "Company"), in the position of General Manager/CEO.
2. The Company is an eligible telecommunications carrier within the meaning of Section 214(e) of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (hereinafter, the "Act"), and the Company is eligible to receive federal high-cost universal service support (hereinafter, the "Support") pursuant to Section 254(e) of the Act. The North Dakota Public Service Commission (hereinafter, the "NDPSC") has designated the Company as an eligible telecommunications carrier.
3. The Company serves 11 access lines within the boundaries of North Dakota and approximately 9,200 access lines within the boundaries of South Dakota.
4. Affiant is personally familiar with all of the Support received by the Company, and with how the Company uses all of Support that it receives.
5. The Company is filing this affidavit in compliance with the order of the Federal Communications Commission (hereinafter, "FCC") dated May 23, 2001 in WC Docket No. 14-58 (FCC 01-157) (hereinafter, the "Order"), as codified in 47 C.F.R. \* 54.314, which requires certification to the FCC that all federal Support will be used by carriers within each state only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, as required by Section 254(e) of the Act and 47 C.F.R. \* 54.7. The Company is also filing this affidavit in compliance with the Order of the NDPSC dated August 28, 2001 in Case No. PU-439-01-460 and dated August 28, 2002, in Case No. PU-439-02-441. This affidavit is filed to facilitate the Company's receipt of federal Support for all four quarters of 2021, and for all quarters thereafter.
6. The Company hereby certifies that all federal high-cost support provided to Venture Communications was used in the preceding calendar year and will be used in the coming calendar year only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the Support is intended pursuant to and consistent with Section 254(e) of the Act and 47 C.F.R. \* 54.7. The Company will use the Support for the following services, as designated in 47 C.F.R. \* 54.101, throughout the Company's study area: (a) voice grade access to the public switched network or its functional equivalent; (b) minutes of use for local service at no additional charge; (c) dual-tone multi-frequency

signaling or its functional equivalent; (d) single-party service or its functional equivalent; (e) access to emergency services; (f) access to operator services; (g) access to interexchange service; (h) access to directory assistance; and (i) toll limitation services for qualifying low-income consumers.

Dated this 27th day of August, 2020.

VENTURE COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE

By:   
Randy W. Houdek

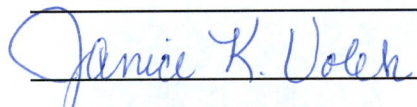
Its: General Manager/CEO

State of South Dakota )

) ss.

County of Hyde )

On this 28<sup>th</sup> day of August 2020, before me, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared RANDY W. HOUDEK, known to me to be the General Manager/CEO for VENTURE COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE, the corporation that is described in and that executed the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that such corporation executed the same.

, Notary Public

For the State of South Dakota

My commission expires: MARCH 24, 2022