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NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

July 24, 2023

Mr. Steve Kahl
Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 408
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0480

**RE: PU-23-16: Annual State Certification of Support for Eligible Telecommunications
Carriers Pursuant to 47 C.F.R §54.314**

USF Certification Case Nos. PU-439-01-460 & PU-439-02-441

USF Certification B FCC Docket Nos. 10-90 and 14-58

Dear Mr. Kahl,

Enclosed for filing in accordance with the Commission's Order of August 28, 2002, in the above-referenced proceeding, is an affidavit certifying that all federal high-cost support provided to Sagebrush Cellular, Inc. 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. In making this filing, the undersigned company is at this time neither contesting nor conceding the jurisdiction of the North Dakota Public Service Commissions to act in this proceeding.

Sincerely,

Dionne Nieskens
Chief Financial Officer
Sagebrush Cellular, Inc.

Enclosures

29 **PU-23-16** Filed: 7/27/2023 Pages: 3
**Affidavit regarding certification of use of Federal
Universal Service Support**

Sagebrush Cellular, Inc.

Dionne Nieskens, CFO

BEFORE THE NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION IN CASE NO. PU-439-02-441
AND BEFORE THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION IN WC DOCKET NO. 10-90
AND WC DOCKET NO. 14-58

AFFIDAVIT OF SAGEBRUSH CELLULAR, INC.
REGARDING
CERTIFICATION OF USE OF FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT

State of Montana)
) ss.
County of Daniels)

Dionne Nieskens, being first duly sworn on oath, does hereby declare and state upon affiant's own personal knowledge as follows:

1. Affiant is employed by Sagebrush Cellular, Inc. (hereinafter, the "Company"), in the position of Chief Financial Officer.

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. 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.

4. The Company is filing this affidavit in compliance with the order of the Federal Communication Commission (hereinafter, "FCC") dated May 23, 2001, in WC Docket Number 10-90 and WC Docket Number 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 was used in the preceding calendar year and will be used in the coming calendar year 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 Orders 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 2023 and all quarters thereafter.

5. The Company hereby certifies that all federal high-cost support provided to Sagebrush Cellular, Inc. 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. Section 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) access to emergency services; and (d) toll limitation services to qualifying low-income consumers.

Dated this 24th day of July, 2023.

SAGEBRUSH CELLULAR, INC.

By *Dionne Nieskens*
Dionne Nieskens
Its: Chief Financial Officer

State of Montana)
) ss.
County of Daniels)

On this 24th day of July, 2023, before me, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared DIONNE NIESKENS, known to me to be the Chief Financial Officer of SAGEBRUSH CELLULAR, INC., the corporation that is described in and that executed the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that such corporation executed the same.

Tara L. Boze
Notary Public
For the State of Montana

