

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

In the Matter of:

**AN INQUIRY INTO THE STATE)
UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND)**

**CASE NO.
2016-00059**

VERIZON’S RESPONSE TO FEBRUARY 1, 2016 ORDER

By Order dated February 1, 2016, the Commission directed parties to address what temporary measure should be adopted to prevent depletion of the Kentucky Universal Service Fund (KUSF). Specifically, the Commission asked whether, pending the outcome of this proceeding, it should increase the KUSF monthly surcharge from \$.08 to \$.14 or decrease KUSF support for eligible telecommunications carriers to approximately \$2.00 per line. In response to the Commission’s Order, MCImetro Access Transmission Services LLC, Cellco Partnership and CellCo Partnership’s commercial mobile radio service provider subsidies operating in the state of Kentucky d/b/a Verizon Wireless (collectively, “Verizon”) submit this response.

Verizon supports the Kentucky Lifeline program and its goal of assisting low-income consumers so they may have access to affordable telecommunications service. Accordingly, Verizon would not object to either solution the Commission has proposed to shoring up the KUSF while the Commission considers long-term solutions to the funding problem. Verizon respectfully requests, however, that the Commission move as quickly as possible to establish a long-term plan for the KUSF that adopts appropriate safeguards to ensure that funds are being used for their intended purposes. Verizon looks forward to

working with the Commission and other interested parties on ways to reform and improve the program.

Respectfully submitted on February 22, 2016.