

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:

AN INQUIRY INTO THE STATE	)	CASE NO.
UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND	)	2016-00059

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COMMENTS PURSUANT TO FEBRUARY 1, 2016 ORDER

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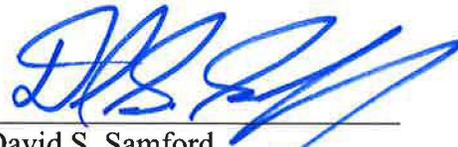
Come now McLeodUSA Telecommunications Services, LLC; Network Telephone, LLC; PAETEC Communications, LLC; Talk America, LLC; The Other Phone Company, LLC; US LEC of Tennessee, LLC; Windstream Communications, LLC; Windstream KDL, LLC; Windstream Kentucky East, LLC; Windstream Kentucky West, LLC; Windstream Norlight, LLC; Windstream NTI, LLC; Windstream NuVox, LLC (collectively, the “Windstream Companies”), by counsel, pursuant to the Commission’s February 1, 2016 Order in the above-captioned case, and do hereby respectfully state as follows:

The Windstream Companies appreciate the Commission’s stewardship of the Kentucky Universal Service Fund (“KUSF”) and recognize the benefit that it has provided to the citizens of the Commonwealth of Kentucky since its establishment. The Commission’s observations that the nature and parameters of the federal Universal Service Fund have changed significantly since 1996 are accurate and underscore the need for a review of the KUSF. The Windstream Companies do not take a position at this time with regard to whether, on a temporary basis, the current KUSF funding mechanism should be increased or whether the support paid to carriers should be reduced in light of the anticipated revenue shortfall identified in the Commission’s February 1, 2016 Order. The Windstream Companies will defer to the expertise of the Commission in making the decision it deems appropriate for the immediate future of the KUSF. However, the Windstream Companies

look forward to constructively participating in this proceeding to help the Commission achieve an outcome that is appropriate and consistent with the evolving nature of states' approaches to Universal Service Fund issues. The Windstream Companies have provided telecommunications services in Kentucky for decades and remain as committed as ever to providing high-quality services to customers at competitive rates.

This 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,



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*Counsel for the Windstream Companies*

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that foregoing electronic filing is a true and accurate copy of the document being filed in paper medium; that the electronic filing was transmitted to the Commission on February 22, 2016; that there are currently no parties that the Commission has excused from participation by electronic means in this proceeding; and that a copy of the filing in paper medium is being hand delivered to the Commission on this the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February.



*Counsel for the Windstream Companies*