### COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of	)
An Inquiry Into the State Universal	) Docket No. 2016-00059
Service Fund	)

## BIRCH COMMUNICATIONS, INC. MOTION TO WITHDRAW

In its Order issued on February 1, 2016 initiating this case, the Commission made every local exchange carrier, commercial mobile radio service provider, and eligible telecommunications carrier ("ETC") a party to this proceeding. The Commission also gave any party that is not an ETC in Kentucky receiving both federal and state universal service fund ("USF") support the opportunity to file a written request setting forth the reasons why withdrawal as a party is appropriate. Birch Communications, Inc. (the "Company") moves to withdraw from this proceeding and states its reasons for doing so below.

#### **ETC Status**

Birch Communications, Inc. is not an ETC in Kentucky and does not receive either federal or state USF support. Accordingly, it meets the Commission's threshold for being permitted to withdraw from this proceeding.

#### Reasons Why Withdrawal as a Party is Appropriate

The Company has no direct interest in the level of state support provided to ETCs, because it does not receive state USF support. Moreover, the Company passes applicable state USF surcharges on to its customers through their bills, so it is not directly impacted from a financial perspective by changes to the Kentucky USF assessment. After reviewing the Order and considering the potential impact of this proceeding on its operations, the Company has determined that it is not in its interests to participate at this time. Therefore the Company moves to withdraw from the proceeding.

## Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, Birch Communications, Inc. respectfully requests that it be permitted to withdraw from further participation in this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Hoke

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# CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ELECTRONIC FILING PROCEDURES

In accordance with 807 KAR 5:001, Section 8, I certify that the February 26, 2016 electronic filing of this Motion is a true and accurate copy of the same document being filed in paper medium; that the electronic filing was transmitted to the Commission on February 26, 2016; that there are currently no parties that the Commission has excused from participation by electronic means in this proceeding; and that an original paper medium of this Motion will be mailed to the Commission by first class United States mail, postage prepaid, on February 26, 2016.

Angela Hoke

Manager - Legal and Regulatory