## COOPER & ASSOCIATES

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December 19th, 2023

Linda C. Bridwell, Executive Director Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Boulevard Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

RE: Electronic Investigation of Pole Attachments Case 2023-00416/Order Issued December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Dear Executive Director Bridwell:

With this filing Duo County Telephone Cooperative, Inc. complies with the commission's order referenced above.

Sincerely,

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found Kent Cooper

## COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY BEFORE THE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC INVESTIGATION OF POLE ) CASE NO. ATTACHMENTS ) 2023-00416

## RESPONSE TO COMMISSION'S ORDER

Pursuant to Commission Order released December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, in the above referenced case, Duo County Telephone Cooperative Corporation, Inc. ("Duo") is not aware of any topic that needs to be discussed at the scheduled January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 informal conference.

Duo is both a broadband attacher to poles and a provider of pole attachments and appreciates the efforts of the commission to balance the need for broadband deployment throughout the Commonwealth with the concerns of the pole owners. A year ago, the commission conducted an intensive process to develop the current pole attachment regulations. Duo spent considerable time and resources developing and defending its tariff to comply with commission regulations, including exhaustive responses to interrogatories from both the commission and industry representatives. Such participation and the costs associated with doing so disproportionately disadvantages small companies like Duo. Should the commission decide to undertake another proceeding in this matter, we ask that they consider relieving Kentucky entities with small numbers of poles from mandatory participation so that they may avoid undue expense on their members / customers.

Duo owns approximately 5,600 poles and accordingly represents only a very small percentage of poles in the state. What limited requests we do receive are provided in compliance with state regulation. We ask that small companies like Duo not be subjected to the high cost imposed on them by large national companies with substantial resources who continue to press their disagreements with properly developed regulations.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard Kent Cooper Cooper & Associates

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