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September 29, 2023

Via E-mail to ConnectAmerica@fcc.gov

Wireline Competition Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, NE
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Enhanced A-CAM Election Letter
Wilkes Telephone Membership Corporation, Provider ID 131486**

To Whom It May Concern:

Wilkes Telephone Membership Corporation, Provider ID 131486, hereby submits this letter to indicate that it will elect the Enhanced Alternative Connect America Model (Enhanced A-CAM) support in the following Study Areas in North Carolina:

230469 – Barnardsville Telephone Company
230478 – Ellerbe Telephone Company
230498 – Saluda Mountain Telephone Company
230500 – Service Telephone Company
230505 – Tri-County Telephone Membership Corp
230510 – Wilkes Telephone Membership Corp

The Federal Communications Commission's Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) released a Public Notice instructing rate-of-return carriers electing EA-CAM to file a letter via email by September 29, 2023 confirming that it "elects the Enhanced A-CAM support amount as specified in Report 1.1 released on August 30, 2023, and commits to satisfy the specific service obligations associated with that amount of model support, including both the deployment of 100/20 Mbps or faster service to all required locations and the maintenance of 100/20 Mbps or faster service to currently served locations."¹ Subsequent to the release of the Enhanced A-CAM

¹ Wireline Competition Bureau Announces Enhanced Alternative Connect America Cost Model Support Amounts Offered to Rate-of-Return Carriers to Expand Rural Broadband, WC Docket No. 10-90 (rel. Aug. 30, 2023), DA 23-779 (Enhanced A-CAM Election PN). The Enhanced A-CAM Election PN also requires electing carriers to identify in their election letters the technology or technologies they plan to use to meet their Enhanced A-CAM deployment obligations and those with "mixed support" should explicitly acknowledge that the election applies to both their A-CAM and CAF BLS study areas.

Election PN, the Bureau released revised versions of the offers in updated reports entitled “Enhanced A-CAM – A-CAM 2.6.0 – Report Version 2, Report/Tables 2.1 through 2.5.”²

The Company hereby commits to satisfying the specific service obligations associated with that amount of model support that it is eligible to receive in North Carolina, including both the deployment of 100/20 Mbps or faster service to all required locations and the maintenance of 100/20 Mbps or faster service to currently served locations. The location totals and specific service obligations for each type of location are specified in the Excel workbook entitled “Enhanced A-CAM – A-CAM 2.6.0 – Report Version 2, Report/Tables 2.1 through 2.5.” The amount the Company intends to elect are identified by year in Report/Table 2.3. According to the Enhanced A-CAM Order, the Bureau will determine the exact set of locations that must be served “based on the Fabric, the Broadband Data Collection, and further deduplication of enforceable commitments” and “may make adjustments, by no later than the end of 2025.”³ Accordingly, the commitment made above encompasses the exact set of locations and any adjustment in support that will ultimately be determined by the Bureau pursuant to this “true-up” process.

The Company hereby notifies the Bureau that it intends to use fiber technology as the primary technology of deployment, however, may use a hybrid of fiber/fixed wireless (both licensed and unlicensed) in limited areas, to meet its Enhanced A-CAM deployment obligations.

Please contact the undersigned with any questions on the Company’s Enhanced A-CAM election described herein.



Eric S. Cramer

Chief Executive Officer

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² *Wireline Competition Bureau Announces Corrected Enhanced Alternative Connect America Cost Model Support Offers for 82 Companies*, WC Docket 10-90 (rel. Sept. 21, 2023) DA 23-835.

³ Connect America Fund; ETC Annual Reports and Certifications; Telecommunications Carriers Eligible to Receive Universal Service Support; Connect America fund – Alaska Plan; Expanding Broadband Service Through the ACAM Program, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 14-58, 09-197, and 16-271; RM-1168, Report and Order, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, and Notice of Inquiry, FCC 23-60 at para. 34 (July 24, 2023) (Enhanced A-CAM Order).