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BEFORE THE
TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Application of Birch Telecom of the South,)
Inc. and Birch Communications, Inc. for)
Approval of Financing Arrangements)

T.R.A. DOCKET ROOM
Docket No. 10-00078

**BIRCH TELECOM OF THE SOUTH, INC. AND BIRCH COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT**

Birch Telecom of the South, Inc. and Birch Communications, Inc. (collectively, "Applicants"), by their attorneys, respectfully request that the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("Authority") grant protection from public disclosure and afford confidential treatment to the CONFIDENTIAL version of their Application for Approval of Financing Arrangements ("Application"), including the draft Term Sheet submitted as **Exhibit A** to the Application, and the current financial statements of Birch Communications, Inc. ("Financial Statements") submitted as **Exhibit B** to the Application (collectively, "Documents"). Applicants request that the Authority afford the highest level of protective treatment to the Documents and ask that the Documents be made available only to the Authority.

Applicants request confidential treatment of the Application and Term Sheet because they contain revenue information and the private terms and conditions for the financing transaction. Applicants request confidential treatment of the Financial Statements because they contain detailed and highly confidential information regarding Birch Communications, Inc.'s assets, liabilities, and financial condition. The information provided in the Documents is proprietary, sensitive, commercial, and financial information that is not publicly available and, if released, could be used by Applicants' competitors to cause competitive harm. The potential harm to Applicants is substantial, and the need for proprietary protection of this information

outweighs any need for public disclosure at this time. As such, the Documents should be afforded protection from public inspection.

Disclosure of the Documents would have adverse competitive consequences for Applicants. Absent protection from disclosure, Applicants' competitors would have access to sensitive and private financial data and proprietary information of Birch Telecom of the South, Inc. and Birch Communications, Inc., which are not publicly traded companies. Since Applicants operate in a highly competitive market, public availability of this information would adversely disadvantage Applicants. Release of this information to the public would cause undue economic damage and substantially harm Applicants' ability to compete in the marketplace.

Protection of the information provided in the Documents does not affect the public interest and does not restrict interested parties from participating in the administrative process. Furthermore, the harm that would result from disclosure of this information far outweighs the public interest in accessing this information.

All notices and inquiries concerning this request should be directed to:

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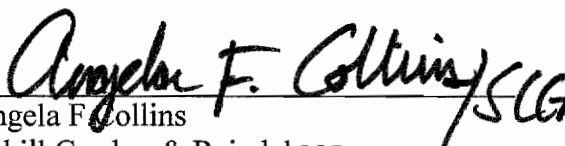
the Applicants are unable to secure approval from the Authority within an expedited timeframe, they may be unable proceed with the transaction. The loss of this financing may irreparably harm Applicants for numerous business and financial reasons, may weaken Applicants' ability to compete in the telecommunications services market, and may deprive consumers by impeding the deployment of innovative products and services. The Authority's expedited approval of this Application is therefore critical to ensuring that the above-referenced public interest benefits will accrue at the earliest possible date.

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the Authority act expeditiously to approve the proposed transactions described herein.

Respectfully submitted,

**BIRCH TELECOM OF THE SOUTH, INC.
BIRCH COMMUNICATIONS, INC.**

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