

**BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

**NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

**June 22, 2012**

**IN RE:**

**PETITION OF THE INDUSTRY COALITION  
(AT&T TENNESSEE, CENTURYLINK  
COMPANIES, FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS  
OF TN/VOLUNTEER AND FRONTIER  
COMMUNICATIONS OF AMERICA, TDS  
TELECOM, TN TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION,  
LEVEL 3 COMMUNICATIONS, LLC, AND TW  
TELECOM OF TENNESSEE, LLC) TO  
ELIMINATE STATE LIFELINE CREDIT**

**Docket No. 12-00035**

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**ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO INTERVENE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE**

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This matter is before the Hearing Officer of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("TRA" or "Authority") upon the filing of a *Petition to Intervene* by Robert E. Cooper, Jr., Attorney General and Reporter for the State of Tennessee, by and through the Consumer Advocate and Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General ("Consumer Advocate") on May 18, 2012.

**BACKGROUND**

On May 1, 2012, the Industry Coalition, which is comprised of BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC d/b/a AT&T Tennessee, the CenturyLink Companies, Frontier Communications Co. of Tennessee/Volunteer and Frontier Communications of America, TDS Telecom, Tennessee Telephone Association, Level 3 Communications, LLC and tw telecom of Tennessee, llc (jointly, the "Industry Coalition") filed a petition requesting that the Authority eliminate the provider-funded state Lifeline credit.

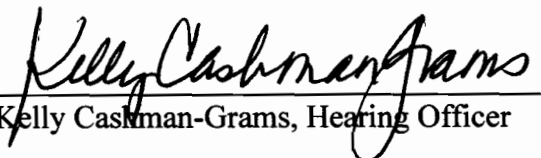
On June 14, 2012, the Authority entered an *Order Convening a Contested Case and Appointing a Hearing Officer* reflecting the unanimous decision of the voting panel during a regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on June 7, 2012, to appoint General Counsel or his designee to act as Hearing Officer to handle any preliminary matters arising in the docket.

**PETITION TO INTERVENE**

In its *Petition to Intervene*, the Consumer Advocate seeks intervention in accord with Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-118, which authorizes the Consumer Advocate to intervene in proceedings to represent the interests of Tennessee consumers. In its *Petition to Intervene*, the Consumer Advocate asserts that elimination of the state Lifeline credit, which helps to support basic wireline telephone service for eligible low income Tennessee households, may not serve the public interest at this time. Further, the Consumer Advocate states that only by participating in this proceeding can it adequately work to protect the interests of consumers. The Industry Coalition has not filed an objection to the Consumer Advocate's intervention request.

Upon the foregoing, the Hearing Officer finds that the legal rights and interests of Tennessee consumers may be determined in this proceeding, the Consumer Advocate's petition is timely, and that its intervention will not impair the orderly and prompt conduct of these proceedings. For the foregoing reasons, the Hearing Officer hereby grants the Consumer Advocate's *Petition to Intervene*. At this time, there are no other petitions to intervene pending in the docket.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

  
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Kelly Cashman-Grams, Hearing Officer