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T.T.O.C. DOCKET ROOM

July 31, 2017

John Hutton  
Tennessee Regulatory Authority  
Utilities Division  
502 Deaderick Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Re: TRA Docket No. 17-00068  
Section 254(e) Certification of  
United Telephone Company  
To Receive USF Disbursements  
In Calendar Year 2018

Dear Mr. John Hutton:

Attached hereto is the Certification Letter of Tommy Welch, certifying that United Telephone Company d/b/a United Communications (the "Company") is in compliance with the requirements of Section 254(e) and the requirements established by the Commission in the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 00-256, Fourteenth Report and Order, Twenty-Second Order on Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 96-45 and Report and Order in CC Docket No. 00-256 (FCC 01-157) (released May 23, 2001) ("Order") and codified at 47 C.F.R. & 54.314.

United Telephone Company d/b/a United Communications (SAC number 290581) received \$4,426,208 in Universal Service Funds in 2016. The funds were used for regulated plant investments and regulated operations.

I am submitting thirteen copies of this letter, pursuant to TRA Rule 1220-1-1-03. In addition is a "stamp and return" copy along with a prepaid postage, self-addressed envelope. All correspondence and inquiries concerning this filing should be addressed to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Tommy Welch'.

Tommy Welch  
Director of Regulatory and IT

Enclosures

UNITED COMMUNICATIONS

120 Taylor Street | Chapel Hill, TN 37034

1-800-779-2227 | [www.united.net](http://www.united.net)



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Section 254(e) Certification of  
United Telephone Company  
To Receive USF Disbursements  
In Calendar Year 2018

Dear Mr. John Hutton:

I, Tommy Welch, Director of Regulatory and IT of United Telephone Company d/b/a United Communications (the "Company") do hereby certify under penalty of perjury that the following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief:

1. I am the Director of Regulatory and IT of the Company
2. The company is a "rural telephone company" as defined in 47 U.S.C. & 153 (37), subject to the jurisdiction of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority;
3. The Company is eligible for disbursements from the Federal Universal Service Fund ("USF") as prescribed by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"); and
4. The Company will utilize its USF disbursements for high cost support (including any high cost loop support, local switching support, high cost support received pursuant to the purchase of exchanges, high cost model support, and hold harmless support) received in 2017 only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, consistent with 47 U.S.C. § 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tommy Welch'.

Tommy Welch  
Director of Regulatory and IT

UNITED COMMUNICATIONS

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