

Henry M. Walker

Partner
hwalker@bradley.com
615.252.2363 direct

Bradley

May 28, 2026

Electronically Filed in TPUC Docket
Room on May 28, 2026 at 2:19 p.m.

Hon. David Jones, Chairman
c/o Tory Lawless
Tennessee Public Utility Commission
502 Deaderick Street, 4th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

Docket No. 26- 00045

Re: Application of Socket Telecom, LLC for a Certificate to Provide Competitive Local
Exchange Telecommunications Services

Dear Chairman Jones,

Enclosed for filing is the application of Socket Telecom, LLC for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to offer competitive telecommunications services in Tennessee. Exhibits C-1 and C-2 are confidential and will be filed under separate cover. A check for the filing fee is being mailed to the Commission. A bond will be filed shortly.

Please call me if you have any questions about this application.

Sincerely,



Henry Walker (B.P.R. 000272)
Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP
1221 Broadway, Suite 2400
Nashville, Tennessee 37203
Tel: (615) 252-2363
hwalker@bradley.com

HW/kwe
Enclosure

BEFORE THE

**TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

In the Matter of the Application of)
Socket Telecom, LLC d/b/a Socket Fiber)
) **Docket No. 26-00045**
for a Certificate of Convenience)
and Necessity to Provide Competitive)
Local Exchange Services in the)
State of Tennessee)

**APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE TO PROVIDE COMPETITIVE LOCAL
EXCHANGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES**

Pursuant to applicable Tennessee statutes and the rules of the Tennessee Public Utility Commission ("Commission"), Socket Telecom, LLC d/b/a Socket Fiber ("Socket" or "Applicant"), by and through its counsel, respectfully requests that the Commission grant Applicant authority to provide competing local exchange telecommunications services throughout Tennessee. Applicant is willing and able to adhere to all applicable Commission policies, rules, and orders pertaining to the provision of competing local exchange telecommunications services.

In support of its application, Applicant submits the following information:

1. *The full name and address of the Applicant is:*

Socket Telecom, LLC d/b/a Socket Fiber
912 S. Main St., Ste. 106
Sikeston, MO 63801
Tel: 573-481-2763

Questions regarding this application should be directed to:

Matt Kohly
Director – Business Development
Tel: 573-289-8633
mkohly@corp.socket.net

or

Herny Walker
Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP
Tel: 615-397-1264
hwalker@bradley.com

2. *Organizational Chart of Corporate Structure: Include any pertinent acquisition or merger information*

Socket Telecom, LLC is wholly owned by Socket Holdings, LLC, and was acquired by Last Dance Intermediate II, LLC on March 31, 2025. Last Dance Intermediate II, LLC is indirectly, wholly owned by Last Dance Holdings, L.P.

For tax purposes, all activity is reported at Last Dance Intermediate I, LLC and Last Dance Holding, L.P. and all others below them are disregarded subsidiaries.

There is currently no applicable pending acquisition or merger information to detail.

3. *Corporate Information*

Applicant is a Missouri limited liability company rather than a corporation. Applicant provides a copy of its formation documents as **EXHIBIT A**.

Applicant's officers are:

Chairman – James M. Gleason
President – Carson Coffman
Chief Financial Officer – J Keith Davidson
Chief Operations Officer – Larry Eby

There are no officers located within Tennessee. All officers may be reached at Applicant's principal place of business provided above.

4. *Managerial, Technical, and Financial Qualifications*

Applicant possesses the managerial, technical, and financial ability to provide telecommunications services in the State of Tennessee as demonstrated below:

A. Managerial Qualifications

Applicant has the managerial and technical qualifications necessary to provide the proposed services in the State of Tennessee. Biographies of key management personnel of Applicant, who are responsible for Applicant's operations, are attached as **EXHIBIT B**. These biographies reflect management's extensive communications industry experience and expertise across multiple jurisdictions. Thus, Applicant possesses the

managerial and technical qualifications necessary to operate as a competing local exchange telecommunications company in the State of Tennessee, consistent with the Commission's requirements.

B. General Technical Qualifications

To the extent required, Applicant will file and maintain tariffs in the manner prescribed by the Commission and will meet minimum basic local standards, including quality of service and billing standards required of all local exchange carriers regulated by the Commission. As noted in the biographies provided in **EXHIBIT B**, Applicant's operations will be overseen by a well-qualified management team with substantial telecommunications experience and technical expertise.

Applicant is currently authorized to provide telecommunications services in the following states: Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Illinois. Applicant has no pending applications at this time. Applicant has not been denied authority to provide telecommunications services in any state, nor has any state revoked the authority of Applicant to operate therein.

C. Financial Qualifications and Surety Bond

Socket plans to make significant investment in network infrastructure and employees in the State of Tennessee. Specifically, the company has targeted 90,000 design passings which are either homes or businesses that will be passed by a newly constructed fiber optic network, across multiple cities including: Memphis, Germantown, Collierville, and Bartlett. The company expects to ultimately employ 80 full-time workers in technical operations, customer service, and sales. Additionally, during the build-out phase of the networks, the company expects to create a substantial number of construction jobs. Estimated 3–5-year spending costs \$107MM. Estimated spending costs between now and 2027 are \$50MM, which is half of the target and 40,000 passings.

Funding – Socket Telecom, LLC is funded by private-equity partners Oak Hill Capital and Pamlico Capital. Collectively, these investment firms manage over 24 billion in assets.

Applicant provides its latest audited financial statement, provided as **CONFIDENTIAL EXHIBIT C-1**; Applicant's projected three-year financial statements and capital expenditures budget, as **CONFIDENTIAL EXHIBIT C-2**; indicating the cost and sources of funding for projected capital expenditures. As shown in these documents, Applicant has access to the financial liquidity and capital resources to fully fund its network deployment plans in Tennessee. Because the financial statements are confidential and contain proprietary information, the exhibit is filed under seal and Applicant requests that the financial statements provided as **CONFIDENTIAL EXHIBITS C-1, and C-2** be treated as confidential and

proprietary and not be made part of the public record.

Applicant will provide the applicable surety bond or letter of credit in the amount of \$20,000 prior to beginning operations in Tennessee.

5. Proposed Service Area and Description of Services

Applicant will provide facilities-based point-to-point telecommunications services for high-speed data transport and other high-bandwidth circuits to enterprise customers. Applicant intends to provide its services using fiber optic cable along with other equipment and facilities to originate, terminate, and amplify signals. Applicant does not currently own or lease facilities in Tennessee but plans to construct facilities to provide its services.

6. **Types of Telecommunications Services To Be Provided**

As noted in paragraph 5, Applicant will provide facilities-based point-to-point telecommunications services for high-speed data transport and other high-bandwidth circuits to enterprise customers. Applicant intends to provide its services using fiber optic cable along with other equipment and facilities to originate, terminate, and amplify signals. Applicant does not plan to furnish switched voice services or dial tone at this time.

7. Repair and Maintenance

Applicant will perform network and equipment maintenance necessary to ensure compliance with any applicable quality of service requirements; will comply with all applicable Commission rules, regulations, and standards; and will provide safe, reliable and high-quality telecommunications services within the State of Tennessee.

Customer support will be available twenty-four (24) hours per day, seven (7) days per week to ensure the prompt handling of customer inquiries and complaints. Applicant will provide customers with high quality telecommunications services and maintain dedicated staff focused on customer support. Applicant will work with each customer to customize services for their specific needs. The contact person responsible for and knowledgeable about the Applicant's ongoing operations in Tennessee is R. Matthew Kohly, who may be reached at Applicant's address listed above.

8. **Small and Minority-Owned Telecommunications Business Participation Plan**

As required pursuant to TCA § 65-5-112, attached as **EXHIBIT D** is Applicant's plan for purchasing goods and services from small and minority telecommunications businesses and information on programs to provide technical assistance to such businesses.

9. **Toll Dialing Parity Plan**

Not applicable. Applicant is not proposing to provide regulated voice services at this time.

10. Notice Requirements

Applicant has served notice of this Application to the fifteen (15) incumbent local exchange telephone companies, as well as the Consumer Advocate and Protection Division of the Office of the Tennessee Attorney General with a statement regarding the Company's intention to operate throughout the State of Tennessee. Attached as **EXHIBIT E** is the Notice and a Certificate of Service confirming compliance.

11. Numbering Issues

Not applicable. Please see the statement provided in **EXHIBIT F**.

12. Tennessee Specific Operational Issues

Not applicable. Please see the responses provided in **EXHIBIT G**.

13. Miscellaneous and Supporting Documentation

- A. Attached as **EXHIBIT H** is the sworn pre-filed testimony of R. Matthew Kohly on behalf of Applicant.
- B. Applicant plans to elect market regulation in accordance with T.C.A. § 65-5-109 and provide the services described in this Application on a de-tariffed basis. To the extent Applicant provides switched voice services in the future, it will submit a switched access tariff.
- C. Applicant does not currently plan to collect customer deposits but reserves the right to collect deposits from its customers in the State of Tennessee. Requirements for the collection of deposits will be included in any proposed tariffs that Applicant files with the Commission.
- D. As of the filing of this Application, neither Applicant nor its affiliates have been the subject of any formal complaints in any of the states within which Applicant is certified and currently providing service.
- E. Applicant seeks authority to provide non-switched local services statewide. Applicant does not seek authority to provide switched local services.

LIST OF EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT A - Formation Documents

EXHIBIT B - Key Management Personnel Biographies

EXHIBIT C-1 - Audited Financial Statements

CONFIDENTIAL, FILED UNDER SEAL

EXHIBIT C-2 – Financial and Capital Expenditure Projections

CONFIDENTIAL, FILED UNDER SEAL

EXHIBIT D - Small & Minority-Owned Telecommunications Business Participation Plan

EXHIBIT E - Notice of Application & Certificate of Service

EXHIBIT F - Numbering Issues

EXHIBIT G -Tennessee Specific Operational Issues

EXHIBIT H - Sworn Pre-filed Testimony

EXHIBIT A

Formation Documents



Division of Business and Charitable Organizations
Department of State
State of Tennessee
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 6th Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37243
Phone: 615-741-2286
tncab.tnsos.gov/portal/

Tre Hargett
Secretary of State

ROBIN DAVIDSON
912 S MAIN, SUITE 106
SIKESTON, MO 63801, USA

04/20/2026

Filing Acknowledgment

Please review the filing information below and notify our office immediately of any discrepancies.

Entity Name:	SOCKET TELECOM, LLC		
SOS Control #:	002105534	Initial Filing Date:	04/17/2026
Entity Type:	Foreign Limited Liability Company (LLC)	Formation Locale:	Missouri
Status:	Active	Duration Term:	Perpetual
Fiscal Year Close:	December	Annual Report Due:	04/01/2027
Business County:	(No County on Record)		
Managed By:	Member Managed		
Obligated Member Entity:	No		

Document Receipt

Receipt #: 2026-498717	Filing Fee:	\$20.00
Payment: eCheck - 3920027625		\$20.00

Amendment Type:	Assumed Name Registration		
Filing Date:	04/20/2026 01:18 PM	Tracking Number:	B2026397534
Assumed Name:	SOCKET FIBER		

This will acknowledge the filing of the attached Assumed Name Registration with an effective date as indicated above. When corresponding with this office or submitting documents for filing, please refer to the control number given above. The name registration is effective for five years from the date the original registration was filed with the Secretary of State.

Tre Hargett
Secretary of State

Event History

New Assumed Name: SOCKET FIBER

Tracking Number
B2026397534

Application for Registration of Assumed Name



Tre Hargett
Secretary of State

Division of Business and Charitable Organizations
Department of State

State of Tennessee
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 6th Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37243
Phone: 615-741-2286
tncab.tnsos.gov/portal/

Control #: 002105534
Filed: 04/20/2026 01:18 PM
Tre Hargett
Secretary of State

Assumed Name Details

Entity Name: SOCKET TELECOM, LLC

Entity Type: Limited Liability Company

Place of Formation: Missouri

Managed By: Member Managed

Control Number: 002105534

The entity intends to transact business in Tennessee under an assumed name.

The assumed name the entity proposes to use is:

SOCKET FIBER

Signature

By entering my name in the space provided below, I certify that I am authorized to file this document on behalf of this entity, have examined the document and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct and complete as of this day.

Pursuant to the provisions of § 48-14-101(d) of the Tennessee Business Corporation Act or § 48-54-101(d) of the Tennessee Nonprofit Corporation Act, or Section 48-207-101(d) of the Tennessee Limited Liability Act, or Section 48-249-106(d) of the Tennessee Revised Limited Liability Act, or Section 61-1-1003 of the Tennessee Uniform Partnership Act, or Section 61-3-101 of the Limited Partnership Act of 2017, the entity hereby submits this application:

Signed Electronically: ROBIN DAVIDSON

Date: 04/20/2026

Title: COMPLIANCE OFFICER



Tre Hargett
Secretary of State

Division of Business and Charitable Organizations

Department of State

State of Tennessee
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 6th Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37243
Phone: 615-741-2286
tncab.tnsos.gov/portal/

Date: 04/20/2026

Invoice: 2026-498717

Customer Information

ROBIN DAVIDSON
SOCKET TELECOM, LLC
912 S MAIN, SUITE 106
SIKESTON, MO 63801, USA

Tracking #	Description	Amount Paid
B2026397534	Assumed Name Registration for SOCKET TELECOM, LLC (LLC Filings)	\$ 20.00
Payment Details		
	Fee Total:	\$ 20.00
	Payment Total:	\$ 20.00
	Amount Due:	\$ 0.00
Payment Method		
	Payment Type: eCheck	
	Check/Confirmation Number: 3920027625	



Tre Hargett
Secretary of State

Division of Business and Charitable Organizations
Department of State
State of Tennessee
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 6th Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37243
Phone: 615-741-2286
tncab.tnsos.gov/portal/

ROBIN DAVIDSON
912 S MAIN, SUITE 106
SIKESTON, MO 63801, USA

04/20/2026

Filing Acknowledgment

Please review the filing information below and notify our office immediately of any discrepancies.

Entity Name:	SOCKET TELECOM, LLC		
SOS Control #:	002105534	Initial Filing Date:	04/17/2026
Entity Type:	Foreign Limited Liability Company (LLC)	Formation Locale:	Missouri
Status:	Active	Duration Term:	Perpetual
Fiscal Year Close:	December	Annual Report Due:	04/01/2027
Business County:	(No County on Record)		
Managed By:	Member Managed		
Obligated Member Entity:	No		

Document Receipt

Receipt #: 2026-466235	Filing Fee:	\$300.00
Payment: eCheck - 3919282365		\$300.00

Registered Agent Address:
CORPORATION SERVICE COMPANY
2908 POSTON AVE
NASHVILLE, TN 37203-1312

Principal Office Address:
912 S MAIN ST STE 106
SIKESTON, MO 63801, USA

Congratulations on the successful filing of your **Application for Registration of Foreign Limited Liability Company** for **SOCKET TELECOM, LLC** in the State of Tennessee which is effective on the date shown above. Please visit the Tennessee Department of Revenue website (www.tn.gov/revenue) to determine your online tax registration requirements. If you need to obtain a Certificate of Existence for this entity, you can request, pay for, and receive it from our website.

You must file an Annual Report with this office on or before the Annual Report Due Date noted above and maintain a Registered Office and Registered Agent. Failure to do so will subject the business to Administrative Dissolution/Revocation.

Tre Hargett
Secretary of State

Tracking Number
B2026376758

Application For Certificate Of Authority



Tre Hargett
Secretary of State

Division of Business and Charitable Organizations

Department of State

State of Tennessee

312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 6th Floor

Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Phone: 615-741-2286

tncab.tnsos.gov/portal/

Control #: 002105534
Filed: 04/17/2026 08:37 AM
Tre Hargett
Secretary of State

Entity Information

Entity Type: Limited Liability Company

Entity Name: SOCKET TELECOM, LLC

Fiscal Year Ending Month: December

Additional Designation: (No Additional Designation)

Is this a Series LLC?

Yes No

Principal Office Address

912 S MAIN ST STE 106
SIKESTON, MO 63801, USA

Mailing Address

912 S MAIN ST STE 106
SIKESTON, MO 63801, USA

When and Where was the Organization Established?

Date Incorporated: 5/11/2001

Country: USA

State: Missouri

Period of Duration:

Perpetual

Did the business commence doing business in Tennessee prior to qualification?

Yes No

Nature of Business (NAICS):

517111 - Wired Telecommunications Carriers

The Limited Liability Company will be:

Member Managed

Do you have six or fewer members at the date of this filing?

Yes No

Will this entity be registered as an Obligated Member Entity (OME)

Yes No

Do you have additional uploads you would like to attach to this filing?

Yes No

Registered Agent Information

CORPORATION SERVICE COMPANY
2908 POSTON AVE
NASHVILLE, TN 37203-1312

Signature

By entering my name in the space provided below, I certify that I am authorized to file this document on behalf of this entity, have examined the document and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct and complete as of this day.

Pursuant to the provisions of T.C.A. § 48-249-904 of the Tennessee Revised Limited Liability Company Act, the undersigned hereby applies for a certificate of authority to transact business in the State of Tennessee.

Signed Electronically: ROBIN DAVIDSON

Date: 04/09/2026

STATE OF MISSOURI



Denny Hoskins
Secretary of State

CORPORATION DIVISION
CERTIFICATE OF GOOD STANDING

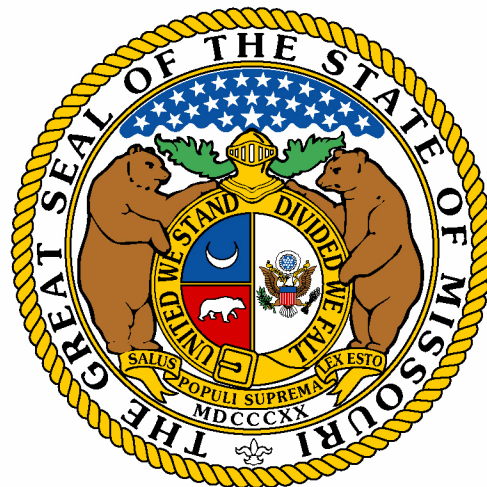
I, DENNY HOSKINS, Secretary of State of the STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby certify that the records in my office and in my care and custody reveal that

SOCKET TELECOM, LLC
LC0050887

was created under the laws of this State on the 11th day of May, 2001, and is active, having fully complied with all requirements of this office.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause to be affixed the GREAT SEAL of the State of Missouri. Done at the City of Jefferson, this 9th day of April, 2026.

Denny Hoskins
Secretary of State



Certification Number: CERT-04092026-0045



Tre Hargett
Secretary of State

Division of Business and Charitable Organizations

Department of State

State of Tennessee
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 6th Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37243
Phone: 615-741-2286
tncab.tnsos.gov/portal/

Date: 04/09/2026

Invoice: 2026-466235

Customer Information

ROBIN DAVIDSON
SOCKET TELECOM, LLC
912 S MAIN, SUITE 106
SIKESTON, MO 63801, USA

Tracking #	Description	Amount Paid
B2026376758	Application for Registration of Foreign Limited Liability Company for SOCKET TELECOM, LLC (LLC Filings)	\$ 300.00
Payment Details		
	Fee Total:	\$ 300.00
	Payment Total:	\$ 300.00
	Amount Due:	\$ 0.00
Payment Method		
	Payment Type: eCheck	
	Check/Confirmation Number: 3919282365	

EXHIBIT B

Key Management Personnel Biographies

James M. Gleason, Executive Chairman

James M. Gleason is the current Executive Chairman of Socket Fiber. Mr. Gleason previously co-founded Vexus Fiber, Vast Broadband, and NewWave Communications where he served as the Chief Executive Officer. Prior to that, Mr. Gleason served as President and COO of various Galaxy Cablevision groups of companies from 1986 until 2002. In 1992, Mr. Gleason served as Chairman of the Board of the National Cable Television Cooperative. He now serves on the Board of the American Cable Association and was formerly the Chairman of the Association from 2002 until 2006. He is also a member of the Cable TV Pioneers and was inducted into the Mid-America Cable Television Pathfinders. Mr. Gleason holds a B.S. in Business Administration from Southeast Missouri State University. He has over 39 years of experience in the cable and telecommunications industries and is excited and proud to build on this through his work with Socket.

Carson Coffman, President

Carson Coffman brings more than 20 years of experience in telecommunications, sales, marketing, business development, and operations. He joined Socket in 1999 and led the development of Socket's CLEC division. Coffman launched Socket's voice services by negotiating interconnection agreements with three ILECs, developing traffic system design, implementing Class 5 voice switch and supporting hardware, and developing packages for local phone, long-distance, and enhanced services. In 2009, he was named Socket's President and Chief Operating Officer and is also co-owner of the company. For the past decade, Coffman has guided Socket through the construction of a fiber-to-the-home network, continuously expanding coverage to over 100,000 homes and businesses throughout Missouri, and built over 3,800 miles of fiber. Coffman holds a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Missouri-Columbia and is actively involved in the local community, serving organizations such as Love Columbia and For Columbia. He is also active in the national telecommunications sector, having served on the board for Incompas, and Treasurer for FISPA. Prior to telecommunications, Coffman worked as a sales and management consultant with the Missouri Business Group, and served as a project engineer in the heavy earth construction field with List & Clark Construction/Central Plains Contracting.

Larry Eby, Chief Operating Officer

Larry Eby comes to Socket from Vexus Fiber, which he helped co-found with Jim Gleason and Keith Davidson. Prior to the inception of Socket in April 2025, Mr. Eby was Chief Operating Officer of Vexus Fiber, Vast Broadband, and NewWave Communications. NewWave Communications was awarded the Independent Operator of the Year in 2010. Vast Broadband was awarded the Independent Operator of the Year in 2019. Mr. Eby came to NewWave after leaving Galaxy Cablevision in April of 2006, where he served as President. Mr. Eby has over 32 years of experience in the telecom industry. Mr. Eby graduated with a B.S. degree from Southeast Missouri State University and has been recognized as Southeast Missouri State University's Outstanding Young Alumni. He served nine years on the Board of Directors for the National Cable Television Cooperative and currently serves on the executive board of the Sikeston Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Keith Davidson, Chief Financial Officer

Keith Davidson has over 44 years of experience in the cable/telecommunications industry. He is the current Chief Financial Officer of Socket Fiber and before Socket, CFO of Vexus Fiber. Mr. Davidson previously helped co-found Clarity Telecom, which eventually went on to become the Vast Broadband telecommunications network. Vast Broadband was awarded the Independent Operator of the Year in 2019. In the past, Mr. Davidson served as Executive Vice President, Co-Director, and CFO of NewWave Communications. He also served as CFO for several different entities doing business as Galaxy Cablevision from 1981 through 2003. He has been responsible for raising and managing considerable senior and subordinated debt, and acquired properties in over twenty states encompassing several dozen transactions throughout his career.

Mr. Davidson holds a B.S. in Business Administration from Southeast Missouri State University and was inducted into Mid-American CATV “Pathfinders” and the Cable TV Pioneers. He currently serves on the Board of the Greater St. Louis Council – Boy Scouts of America.

EXHIBIT D

Small and Minority-Owned Telecommunications

Business Participation Plan

Socket Telecom, LLC d/b/a Socket Fiber

**SMALL AND MINORITY-OWNED TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUSINESS
PARTICIPATION PLAN**

Pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated ("TCA") § 65-5-112, as amended, Socket Telecom, LLC d/b/a Socket Fiber ("Socket" or "Applicant") submits this Small and Minority-Owned Telecommunications Business Participation Plan (the "Plan").

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of TCA § 65-5-112 is to provide opportunities for small and minority-owned businesses to provide goods and services to telecommunications service providers. Applicant is committed to the goals of TCA § 65-5-112 and to taking steps to support the participation of small and minority-owned telecommunications businesses in the telecommunications industry. Socket will endeavor to provide opportunities for small and minority-owned telecommunications businesses to compete for contracts and subcontracts for goods and services. As part of its procurement process, Socket will make efforts to identify and inform minority-owned and small businesses that are qualified and capable of providing goods and services to Socket of such opportunities. Socket's representatives intend to contact the Department of Economic and Community Development, the administrator of the small and minority-owned telecommunications assistance program, to obtain a list of qualified vendors. Moreover, Socket will seek to increase awareness of such opportunities so that companies not otherwise identified will have sufficient information to participate in the procurement process.

I. DEFINITIONS

As defined in TCA § 65-5-112:

Minority Owned Business. Minority-owned business shall mean a business which is solely owned, or at least fifty-one percent (51 %) of the assets or outstanding stock of which is owned, by an individual who personally manages and controls daily operations of such business, and who is impeded from normal entry into the economic mainstream because of race, religion, sex or national origin and such business has annual gross receipts of less than four million dollars (\$4,000,000).

Small Business. Small Business shall mean a business with annual gross receipts of less than four million dollars (\$4,000,000).

II. ADMINISTRATION

Socket's Plan will be overseen and administered by the individual named below, hereinafter referred to as the Administrator, who will be responsible for conducting and promoting Socket's full efforts to provide equal opportunities for small and minority-owned businesses. The Administrator of the Plan will be:

Robin Davidson
Compliance Officer
912 S. Main St.
Ste. 106
Sikeston, MO 63801
Email: robin.davidson@corp.socket.net
Tel: 573-481-2763

Applicant intends the Administrator's responsibilities to include:

- (1) Maintaining an updated Plan in full compliance with TCA § 65-5-112 and the rules and orders of the Tennessee Public Utilities Commission.
- (2) Establishing and developing policies and procedures necessary for the successful implementation of the Plan.
- (3) Preparing and submitting such forms as may be required by the Tennessee Public Utility Commission, including the filing of required annual updates.

- (4) Serving as the primary liaison to and cooperate with the Tennessee Public Utility Commission, other agencies of the State of Tennessee, and small and minority-owned businesses to locate and use qualified small and minority-owned businesses as defined in § 65-5-112.
- (5) Searching for and developing opportunities to use small and minority-owned businesses and encouraging such businesses to participate in and bid on contracts and subcontracts.
- (6) Providing records and reports and cooperating in any authorized surveys as required by the Tennessee Public Utility Commission.
- (7) Establish a record-keeping system to track qualified small and minority-owned businesses and efforts to use such businesses.
- (8) Providing information and educational activities to persons within Applicant and training such persons to seek out, encourage, and promote the use of small and minority-owned businesses.

In performance of these duties, the Administrator will utilize a number of resources, including:

- Chambers of Commerce
- The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development
- The United States Department of Commerce
- Small Business Administration Office of Minority Business
- The National Minority Supplier Development Counsel
- The National Association of Women Business Owners
- The National Association of Minority Contractors
- Historically Black Colleges, Universities, and Minority Institutions

The efforts through which Applicant intends to promote and ensure equal opportunities for small and minority-owned businesses are primarily spelled out in the Administrator's duties above. Additional efforts to provide opportunities for small and minority-owned businesses will include offering, where appropriate and feasible, small and minority-owned businesses assistance with technical, insurance, bonding, licensing, production, and deadline requirements.

III. RECORDS AND COMPLIANCE REPORTS

Socket will maintain records of qualified small- and minority-owned businesses and make efforts to use the goods and services of such businesses. In addition, Socket will maintain records of educational and training activities conducted or attended and of the internal procurement procedures adopted to support this Plan.

Socket will submit records and reports required by the Tennessee Public Utility Commission concerning the Plan. Moreover, Socket will cooperate fully with any surveys and studies required by the Tennessee Public Utilities Commission.

EXHIBIT E

Notice of Application and
Certificate of Service

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

In the Matter of the Application of)
Socket Telecom, LLC d/b/a Socket Fiber)
)
For a Certificate of Convenience) **Docket No. 26-00045**
And Necessity to Provide Competitive)
Local Exchange Services in the)
State of Tennessee)

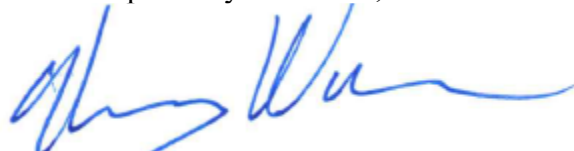
NOTICE OF FILING

TO: ALL INCUMBENT LOCAL EXCHANGE CARRIERS (ILECS)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that in accordance with the Tennessee Public Utility Commission Rules for the Provision of Competitive Intrastate Telecommunications Services, you are hereby given notice that Socket Telecom, LLC d/b/a Socket Fiber filed an Application for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity to Provide Competing Local Exchange and Interexchange Telecommunications Services.

This 28th day of May, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,



Henry Walker (B.P.R. No. 000272)
Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP
1221 Broadway, Suite 2400
Nashville, TN 37203
Phone: 615-252-2363
Email: hwalker@bradley.com

Counsel for Socket Fiber

Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (ILECs)

1. Ardmore Telephone Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 549
517 Ardmore Avenue
Ardmore, TN 38449
2. Bellsouth Telecommunications, Inc.
333 Commerce Street, Suite 2106
Nashville, TN 37201-3300
3. Brightspeed of Appalachia, LLC
P.O. Box 1330
Fayetteville, NC 28302
4. Brightspeed of East Tennessee, LLC
P.O. Box 1330
Fayetteville, NC 28302
5. Brightspeed of Southern Tennessee, LLC
P.O. Box 1330
Fayetteville, NC 28302
6. Brightspeed of Western Tennessee, LLC
P.O. Box 1330
Fayetteville, NC 28302
7. Crockett Telephone Company
P.O. Box 24207
Friendship, TN 38034
Attn: Lisa Wigington
8. Frontier Communications of Tennessee
300 Bland Street
Bluefield, WV 24701
9. Humphreys County Telephone Company
525 Junction Road
Madison, WI 53717
10. Loretto Telephone Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 130
Loretto, TN 38469
11. Millington Telephone Company, Inc.
4880 Navy Road
Millington, TN 38083
12. Peoples Telephone Company
P.O. Box 24207
Jackson, MS 39225
Attn: Lisa Wigington
13. Tellico Telephone Company
P.O. Box 9
102 Spence Street
New Johnsonville, TN 37385-0009
14. United Telephone Company
P.O. Box 38
120 Taylor Street
Chapel Hill, TN 37034
15. West Tennessee Telephone Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 10
244 E. Main Street
Bradford, TN 38316

EXHIBIT F

Numbering Issues

Numbering Issues

Please provide answers to the following questions concerning numbering within your proposed service areas.

1. What is your company's expected demand for NXXs per NPA within a year of approval of your application?

Not applicable. Applicant is not proposing to provide regulated voice services at this time.

2. How many NXXs do you estimate that you will request from NANPA when you establish your service footprint?

Not applicable. Applicant is not proposing to provide regulated voice services at this time.

3. When and in what NPA do you expect to establish your service footprint?

Not applicable. Applicant is not proposing to provide regulated voice services at this time.

4. Will the company sequentially assign telephone numbers within NXXs?

Not applicable. Applicant is not proposing to provide regulated voice services at this time.

5. What measures does the company intend to take to conserve Tennessee numbering resources?

Not applicable. Applicant is not proposing to provide regulated voice services at this time.

6. When ordering new NXXs for growth, what percentage fill of an existing NXX does the company use to determine when a request for a new NXX will be initiated?

Not applicable. Applicant is not proposing to provide regulated voice services at this time.

EXHIBIT G

Tennessee Specific Operational Issues

Tennessee Specific Operational Issues

Please provide answers to the following questions concerning Tennessee Specific Operational Issues.

1. How does the company intend to comply with TCA §65-21-114? In its description, please explain technically how the company will not bill for countywide calls within Tennessee.

Not applicable. Applicant is not proposing to provide regulated voice services at this time.

2. Is the company aware of the Tennessee County Wide Calling database maintained by BellSouth and the procedures to enter your telephone numbers in the database?

Not applicable. Applicant is not proposing to provide regulated voice services at this time.

3. Is your company aware of the local calling areas provided by the Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers in your proposed service areas?

Not applicable. Applicant is not proposing to provide regulated voice services at this time.

4. Explain the procedures that will be implemented to assure that your customers will not be billed long distance charges for calls within the metro calling areas.

Not applicable. Applicant is not proposing to provide regulated voice services at this time.

5. Please provide the name and telephone number of an employee of your company that will be responsible to work with the TPUC on resolving customer complaints.

Robin Davidson
Compliance Officer
912 S. Main St., Ste. 106
Sikeston, MO 63801
Email: robin.davidson@corp.socket.net
Tel: 573-481-2763

6. Does the company intend to telemarket its services in Tennessee? If yes, is the company aware of the telemarketing statutes and regulations found in TCA §65-4-401 et seq. and Chapter 1220-4-11?

Applicant is aware of the above-referenced telemarketing statutes and regulations and will abide by them to the extent it undertakes telemarketing in Tennessee in the future.

EXHIBIT H

Sworn Pre-filed Testimony of
R. Matthew Kohly

**BEFORE THE
TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

In the Matter of the Application of)
Socket Telecom, LLC d\b\ a Socket Fiber)
) *Docket No.* _____
for a Certificate of Convenience and)
Necessity to Provide Competing Local)
Exchange Telecommunications Services in the)
State of Tennessee)

PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF R. MATTHEW KOHLY

I, R. Matthew Kohly, do hereby testify as follows in support of the application of Socket Telecom, LLC d\b\ a Socket Fiber for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity as a competitive telecommunication services provider to provide telecommunications services throughout the State of Tennessee.

Q: Please state your full name, business address, and position.

A: My name is R. Matthew Kohly. I am the Director of Business Development. My business address is 912 S Main St. Ste 106, Sikeston MO 63801

Q: Please briefly describe your duties.

A: I am the Director of Business Development at Socket, where I lead market expansion strategy, state and local government relations, public-private partnerships, and broadband grant programs to drive fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) growth. With a focus on collaboration and community engagement, my team and I work closely with local and state governments, industry stakeholders, and community partners to increase broadband access and bridge the digital divide.

Q: Please describe your business experience and educational background.

A: I have over 30 years of industry experience and have held leadership roles across regulatory, government affairs, and market development teams. Since joining Socket in 2004, I have played a key role in the company's rapid growth and commitment to building future-proof fiber networks. I have testified on telecommunications and broadband issues before a number of state utility regulatory authorities and the Federal Communications Commission. I have a Master of Science Degree in Agricultural and Applied Economics and Bachelor of Science in Business Administration; both from the University of Missouri.

Q: Are all statements in Applicant's application true and correct to the best of your knowledge, information, and belief?

A: Yes.

Q: Please describe the current corporate structure of Applicant.

A: Socket is a Missouri based Limited Liability Company. Socket is wholly owned by Socket Holdings, LLC, and was acquired by Last Dance Intermediate II, LLC on 3/31/25. Last Dance Intermediate II, LLC is indirectly, wholly owned by Last Dance Holdings, L.P.

Q: Does Applicant possess the requisite managerial, financial, and technical abilities to provide the services for which it has applied for authority?

A: Yes. Socket has the managerial, technical, and financial qualifications necessary to provide the proposed services in Tennessee.

Q: Please describe Applicant's financial qualifications.

A: Socket has sufficient financial resources to initiate and maintain the services and related operations in Tennessee as proposed in this Application. Applicant is providing financial

information for Applicant as **CONFIDENTIAL EXHIBITS C-1, C-2, and C-3**, which demonstrate the financial resources available to provide the proposed telecommunications services in Tennessee. Included with the aforementioned exhibit are the audited financial statements as of March 31, 2025; Applicant's three-year projected financial statements; and Applicant's three-year capital expenditure budget.

Q: Please describe Applicant's managerial and technical qualifications.

A: Applicant has the managerial qualifications necessary to provide the proposed service in Tennessee, as Applicant is managed by a well-qualified and highly skilled team with substantial expertise and experience. The biographies included with the Application as **EXHIBIT B** reflect management's substantial communications industry experience and expertise and demonstrate that the Applicant possesses significant managerial and technical expertise operating a variety of communications services across multiple jurisdictions. Thus, Applicant possesses the managerial and technical qualifications necessary to operate as a competing local telecommunications company in Tennessee, consistent with the Commission's requirements.

Q: What services will Applicant offer?

A: Applicant proposes building a fiber-based network in Tennessee, which Applicant plans to construct to customer locations. Applicant will provide point-to-point telecommunications services, such as Ethernet and other similar high-bandwidth services, for high-speed data transport. Applicant will provide services primarily using its own facilities. Applicant does not currently own or lease facilities in Tennessee but plans to construct facilities to provide its services. Applicant intends to provide its services using fiber optic facilities along with other equipment and facilities to originate, terminate, and amplify signals. Applicant does not plan to furnish switched voice services or dial tone at this time.

Q: Will Applicant offer services to all consumers within its service area?

A: Applicant will provide regulated services to enterprise customers in the State of Tennessee. Applicant will also provide VoIP-based service and broadband service to residential customers.

Q: Does Applicant plan to offer local exchange telecommunications services in areas served by any incumbent local exchange telephone company with fewer than 100,000 total access lines?

A: Applicant does not plan to offer local exchange telecommunications services in areas served by any incumbent local exchange telephone company with fewer than 100,000 total access lines. Applicant does not have plans to provide retail switched voice services, including dial tone. To the extent Applicant will provide switched local services in the future, it only seeks authority to provide such services in service territories that are open to competition.

Q: Will the granting of a certificate of convenience and necessity to Applicant serve the public interest?

A: Granting this Application will promote the public interest by increasing the level of competition in the Tennessee telecommunications market. Ultimately, competition will compel all exchange telecommunications service providers to operate more efficiently and with resulting reduced prices for consumers. These benefits work to maximize the public interest by providing continuing incentives for carriers to reduce costs while simultaneously promoting the availability of potentially desirable services. Applicant's provision of these services would promote the public interest by providing high-quality service at competitive prices and by creating greater economic incentives for the development and improvement for all competing providers.

Q: Does Applicant intend to comply with all TPUC rules, statutes, and orders pertaining to the provision of telecommunications services in Tennessee, including those for disconnection and reconnection of service?

A: Yes, Applicant will comply with TPUC rules, statutes, and orders pertaining to the telecommunications services it provides.

Q: Has any state ever denied Applicant or one of its affiliates authorization to provide intrastate service?

A: No, neither Applicant nor its affiliates have been denied authority to provide telecommunications services in any state or jurisdiction.

Q: Has any state ever revoked the certification of Applicant or one of its affiliates?

A: No, neither Applicant nor its affiliates have had its authority to provide telecommunications services in any state revoked.

Q: Has Applicant or one of its affiliates ever been investigated or sanctioned by any regulatory authority for service or billing irregularities?

A: No, neither Applicant nor its affiliates have been the subject of any investigation or sanctioned by any regulatory authority for service or billing irregularities.

Q: Who is knowledgeable about Applicant's operations and will serve as Applicant's regulatory and customer service contact?

A: I will serve as Applicant's Regulatory and Customer Service Contact. Submit inquiries to me at regulatory@corp.socket.net. Customer complaints and inquiries can be submitted via email to <https://www.socket.net/contact/> or by calling Applicant's toll-free phone number at 1-800-SOCKET-3.

Q: Please explain in detail Applicant's proposed procedures for responding to information requests from the TPUC and its staff.

A: Information requests related to this application should be directed to our counsel set forth in the Application, with a copy to me. Together, we will prepare a response and ensure the response is filed promptly and by any deadline set by staff.

Q: Does this conclude your testimony

A: Yes.

I swear that the foregoing testimony is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

R. Matthew Kohly
R. Matthew Kohly
Director – Business Development
Socket Telecom, LLC d/b/a Socket Fiber

Respectfully submitted this 5th day of May, 2026.

STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss.
COUNTY OF BOONE)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of May, 2026.

Katie A. Jackson
Notary Public

