

ROBERT E. CATTANACH
Partner
(612) 340-2873
FAX (612) 340-8800
cattanach.robert@dorsey.com

April 1, 2015

## **VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Mr. Dan Wolf, Executive Secretary Minnesota Public Utilities Commission 121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350 St. Paul, MN 5510-2147

Re: In the Matter of Joint Petition by Midwest Cable, Inc., Midwest Cable Phone of Minnesota, LLC, and the Minnesota Department of Commerce for Confirmation of Eligibility for TAP Reimbursement MPUC Docket No:

Dear Mr. Wolf:

Enclosed via eFiling please find the Joint Petition of Midwest Cable, Inc. a/k/a GreatLand Connections, Inc., Midwest Cable Phone of Minnesota, LLC (collectively "Midwest Cable"), and the Minnesota Department of Commerce ("Department") for Confirmation of Eligibility for TAP Reimbursement. The Department has reviewed the petition and authorizes Midwest Cable to file the petition on its behalf. Also enclosed is an Affidavit of Service in this matter.

Please contact me if further information is needed.

Respectfully submitted,

**DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP** 

s/ Robert E. Cattanach\_\_\_\_

Robert E. Cattanach Dorsey & Whitney LLP Suite 1500, 50 South Sixth Street Minneapolis, MN 55402 Phone: (612) 340-2873

Facsimile: (612) 340-8800

Email: cattanach.robert@dorsey.com

Attorney for Midwest Cable, Inc. and Midwest Cable Phone of Minnesota, LLC

Enclosures

cc: Parties of Record

## BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION SUITE 350 121 SEVENTH PLACE EAST ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101-2147

Beverly Jones Heydinger		Chair
Nancy Lange		Commissioner
Dan Lipschultz		Commissioner
John A. Tuma		Commissioner
Betsy Wergin		Commissioner
In the Matter of Joint Petition by Midwest Cable, Inc., Midwest Cable Phone of Minnesota, LLC,	) Docket No.	
and the Minnesota Department of Commerce for	)	
Confirmation of Eligibility for TAP	, )	
Reimbursement	)	

## JOINT PETITION REGARDING TAP REIMBURSEMENT AND VOIP SERVICE

Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement executed by and among Midwest Cable, Inc. a/k/a GreatLand Connections, Inc., Midwest Cable Phone of Minnesota, LLC (jointly referred to as "Midwest Cable"), and the Minnesota Department of Commerce ("Department"), and approved by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ("Commission"), Midwest Cable and the Department (collectively referred to as "Petitioners") respectfully submit this Joint Petition seeking an express order from this Commission that Midwest Cable is eligible to receive TAP reimbursement for its interconnected VoIP services.

Midwest Cable agreed in the Settlement Agreement to offer the TAP credit to qualifying customers of voice service and take affirmative steps to make Minnesota customers aware of the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Settlement Agreement was executed by Midwest Cable and the Department on February 19, 2015, and filed with the Commission on February 20, 2015. *See In the Matter of the Midwest Cable Phone of Minnesota, LLC Application for Authority to Provide Telephone Service in the State of Minnesota* and *In the Matter of Midwest Cable Phone of Minnesota, LLC Petition for Approval to Transfer Regulated Customers and Assets* (collectively referred to as "Application for Authority and Petition for Transfer Dockets"), Minnesota PUC Docket Nos. P6927/NA-14-507 and P6927/PA-14-513, Settlement Agreement (Feb. 20, 2015) ("Settlement Agreement").

<sup>2</sup> The Commission Order approving the Settlement Agreement was issued on March 17, 2015. *See* Application for Authority and Petition for Transfer Dockets, Minnesota PUC Docket Nos. P6927/NA-14-507 and P6927/PA-14-513, Order (Mar. 17, 2015) ("Order").

availability of the TAP credit consistent with the terms of the Settlement Agreement, once the Commission determined that Midwest Cable is eligible to receive TAP reimbursement. The Settlement Agreement provides that Midwest Cable's commitment to provide the TAP credit to qualifying customers is contingent on the Commission, by its approval of the terms of the Settlement Agreement, making a determination that Midwest Cable is eligible to receive TAP reimbursements for its interconnected VoIP services.<sup>3</sup> The Commission approved the terms of the Settlement Agreement, <sup>4</sup> but, in its summary of the terms of the Settlement Agreement, stated, "Midwest Cable agrees to extend TAP bill credits to VoIP customers upon receiving a Commission order authorizing reimbursement under that program for credits made to VoIP customers." This summary could be understood to contemplate a separate Commission Order specifically authorizing TAP reimbursement.

Consistent with this summary, and to remove any ambiguity, the Petitioners therefore request that the Commission issue an order expressly confirming that Midwest Cable is authorized to receive reimbursement under the TAP program for credits provided to VoIP customers. Granting this Petition will benefit the public interest by ensuring that TAP credits will be available to Midwest Cable's interconnected VoIP customers, as contemplated by the Petitioners when they entered into the Settlement Agreement.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Settlement Agreement at 2. The Settlement Agreement further states that the Petitioners will file a joint petition if the Commission, in approving the Settlement Agreement, affirmatively does not approve reimbursement. *Id.* Given the language differences between the Settlement Agreement and the Order, Petitioners believe it prudent to file this Petition to confirm that Midwest Cable is eligible for TAP reimbursement for its interconnected VoIP services.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Order at 8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Order at 3.

For these reasons, Petitioners request a further order expressly confirming Midwest Cable's eligibility for TAP reimbursement, so that Midwest Cable may begin to put in place a framework for its TAP program.

Dated: April 1, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

By: <u>s/Robert E. Cattanach</u>
Robert E. Cattanach
Dorsey & Whitney LLP

Jennifer Oberhausen Wilkinson Barker Knauer LLP 2300 N Street, NW, Suite 700 Washington, DC 20554 Phone: (202) 783-4141 Facsimile: (202) 783-5851

Robert E. Cattanach Dorsey & Whitney LLP

Suite 1500, 50 South Sixth Street

joberhausen@wbklaw.com

Minneapolis, MN 55402 Phone: (612) 340-2873 Facsimile: (612) 340-8800 cattanach.robert@dorsey.com By: <u>s/ Linda S. Jensen</u>
Linda S. Jensen
Assistant Attorney General

State of Minnesota 445 Minnesota Street, Suite 1800 St. Paul, MN 55101-2134 Phone: (651) 757-1472 Linda.S.Jensen@ag.state.mn.us

Counsel for the Minnesota Department of Commerce

Attorneys for Midwest Cable Phone, Inc. and Midwest Cable Phone of Minnesota, LLC

## **AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE**

STATE OF MINNESOTA	)
	) ss
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN	)

Kristin K. Berkland hereby certifies that on the 1st day of April, 2015, on behalf of Midwest Cable, Inc., Midwest Cable Phone of Minnesota, LLC, and the Minnesota Department of Commerce she electronically filed a true and correct copy of the enclosed Joint Petition in the State of Minnesota on <a href="www.edockets.state.mn.us">www.edockets.state.mn.us</a>. Notice of this filing was also provided via electronic service as designated on the attached service list.

/s/ Kristin K. Berkland
Kristin K. Berkland

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 1st day of April, 2015.

/s/ Sharon Kay Leboeuf Notary Public, State of Minnesota

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Julia	Anderson	Julia.Anderson@ag.state.m n.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	1800 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul, MN 551012134	Electronic Service	No	GEN_SL_Midwest Cable Phone of Minnesota, LLC_Preliminary Service List
Robert	Cattanach	cattanach.robert@dorsey.c	Dorsey & Whitney LLP	Suite 1500 50 South Sixth Street Minneapolis, MN 554021498	Electronic Service	No	GEN_SL_Midwest Cable Phone of Minnesota, LLC_Preliminary Service List
Linda	Chavez	linda.chavez@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 500  Saint Paul,  MN  55101-2198	Electronic Service	No	GEN_SL_Midwest Cable Phone of Minnesota, LLC_Preliminary Service List
Linda	Jensen	linda.s.jensen@ag.state.m n.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	1800 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota Street St. Paul, MN 551012134	Electronic Service	No	GEN_SL_Midwest Cable Phone of Minnesota, LLC_Preliminary Service List
John	Lindell	agorud.ecf@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-RUD	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul, MN 551012130	Electronic Service	No	GEN_SL_Midwest Cable Phone of Minnesota, LLC_Preliminary Service List
Jennifer	Oberhausen	joberhausen@wbklaw.com	Wilkinson Barker Knauer LLP	2300 N St NW Ste 700 Washington, DC 20554	Electronic Service	No	GEN_SL_Midwest Cable Phone of Minnesota, LLC_Preliminary Service List
Daniel P	Wolf	dan.wolf@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Place East Suite 350 St. Paul, MN 551012147	Electronic Service	No	GEN_SL_Midwest Cable Phone of Minnesota, LLC_Preliminary Service List