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May 3, 2017

Amy L. Green
Secretary to the Commission
Kansas Corporation Commission
1500 SW Arrowhead Road
Topeka, KS 66604

RE: Joint Application of Consolidated Communications Holdings, Inc. and FairPoint Communications, Inc., For Approval of the Proposed Acquisition of the Common Stock of FairPoint Communications, Inc. by Consolidated Communications Holdings, Inc. and the Resulting Transfer of Control of Bluestem Telephone Company, Inc., Sunflower Telephone, Company, Inc., FairPoint Communications Company of Missouri, Inc. and ST Long Distance, Inc.

Docket No. 17-SFLT-283-ACQ

Dear Ms. Green:

I am the Vice President of Regulatory and Public Policy for Consolidated Communications Holdings, Inc. (CCHI). I previously filed testimony that accompanied the Joint Application in this Docket. We have received the Commission Staff's Report and Recommendation that was filed in this docket on May 1, 2017.

On behalf of CCHI, I can confirm that no portion of the acquisition premium incurred as a result of the Transaction will be recovered from Kansas ratepayers, either through rates or the Kansas Universal Service Fund (KUSF).

Furthermore, the Joint Applicants appreciate the Commission's expeditious review of the Application and, given Staff's position on the matter, anticipate a Final Order in the coming days. We look forward to an ongoing positive relationship with the Staff and the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael J. Shultz', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Michael J. Shultz

cc: Michael Neeley, m.neeley@kcc.ks.gov
Michael Nuenes, m.duenes@kcc.ks.gov
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