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CenturyLink™

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Mark S. Reynolds
VP Regulatory & Legislative Affairs
Western Region

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AUG 27 2015
MONT. P.S. COMMISSION

August 27, 2015

Commissioner Kirk Bushman
P.O. Box 202601
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Dear Commissioner Bushman,

CenturyLink has notified the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") of its acceptance of the state-level offer of Connect America Fund Phase II ("CAF II") support for Montana. CenturyLink is committing to provide access to broadband service capable of at least 10 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream for at least 33,638 households and businesses in designated rural census blocks across CenturyLink's Montana service area over the next several years.

This six year build-out commitment will help to further bridge the rural broadband divide in America and in the state of Montana. Greater broadband availability and faster speeds will provide new opportunities in rural Montana; drive economic development, expand distance learning activities, enhance tele-medicine applications and augment public safety capabilities.

CenturyLink will be providing annual updates to the Montana Public Service Commission on our six year build-out progress at the state level during this period. Once our initial build-out plan is finalized, we anticipate that construction will likely begin in early 2016, weather permitting. Fortunately, the FCC, recognizing the challenge of such a large undertaking, allows flexibility in choosing locations within the CAF II eligible areas to meet the state-level broadband deployment targets and the timing within the program.

We look forward to utilizing the CAF II funds to meet the broadband needs of the citizens of Montana.

Sincerely,

Mark S Reynolds

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