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March 17, 2006

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL AND U.S. MAIL

Filing Center Oregon Public Utility Commission 550 Capitol Street NE, Ste 215 Salem, OR 97301-2551

Re: ARB 714 - Reply to Staff Response Comments

Dear Sir/Madam:

Enclosed are the original and one copy of the Reply to Staff Response

Comments and Certificate of Service.

RICHARD A. FÍNNIGAN

RAF/km Enclosures

cc: Service List (w/encl., via e-mail)
Linda Lowrance (w/encl., via e-mail)
Gail Long (w/encl., via e-mail)

REPLY TO STAFF RESPONSE COMMENTS - 1

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON

ARB 714

In the Matter of

T-MOBILE USA, INC. and HOME TELEPHONE COMPANY,

Interconnection Agreement Submitted for Commission Approval Pursuant to Section 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

REPLY TO STAFF RESPONSE COMMENTS

In this very brief Reply, Home Telephone Company ("Home") replies to the Staff Comments of March 13, 2006.

First and foremost, the agreement that has been entered into between Home and T-Mobile USA, Inc. ("T-Mobile") is not a "secret" agreement as alleged by Commission Staff. It is a very open agreement. It states on its face that the agreement relates back to the beginning (approximately) of the negotiations between Home and T-Mobile. There is nothing secret about this fact. There is nothing more to this portion of the agreement than a recognition of the spirit of the FCC's <u>T-Mobile</u> decision, where the FCC provided that compensation for traffic could begin from the time that the CRMS provider and the rural ILEC begin their negotiation process. That same opportunity is available to any party.

Law Office of Richard A. Finnigan 2112 Black Lake Blvd. SW Olympia, WA 98512 (360) 956-7001 Furthermore, the Commission Staff seems to be unique in its view of how the FCC's compensation rules apply. As we have pointed out in our earlier sets of comments, this very same agreement, with the very same relation back provision, has been approved in the states of Alabama, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Washington and Wisconsin. Furthermore, since the date of our earlier comments, the states of Colorado, Idaho, Georgia and Oklahoma have approved the agreement. In addition, in those states where the agreement is still pending, there has been no indication that the agreement will not be approved as submitted.

Home requests that the Commission take into account that the negotiations with T-Mobile lasted for over a year. The negotiations were quite difficult and quite expensive. It would again be very costly, time-consuming and expensive to have to renegotiate the terms of the agreement. This would not be a good use of resources of a company as small as Home.

Home respectfully requests that the Commission approve the agreement with T-Mobile on the terms that exist in the agreement in total.

Respectfully submitted this 17th day of March 2006.

Bv:

RICHARD A. FINNIGAN, OSB# 96535 Attorney for Home Telephone Company

1 CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE 2 **ARB 714** 3 I certify that I have this day served the foregoing Reply to Staff Response Comments by electronic mail and U.S. mail, postage pre-paid, to the following: FILING CENTER 5 PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON 6 550 CAPITOL STREET NE, SUITE 215 SALEM, OR 97301-2551 7 puc.filingcenter@state.or.us 8 I further certify that I have this day served the foregoing Reply to Staff Response Comments upon all parties of record in this proceeding by electronic mail pursuant to OAR 860-013-0070, to the 9 following parties or attorneys of parties: 10 Marin Fettman 11 marin.fettman@t-mobile.com 12 Dated at Olympia, Washington, this 17th day of March, 2006. 13 14 15 Richard A. Finnigan, OSB #96535 16 Attorney for Home Telephone Company 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

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