ORDER NO. 26-450

ENTERED Nov 17 2026

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

OF OREGON

CP 1722

In the Matter of WIFI BEAR LLC Application for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Telecommunications Service in Oregon and Classification as a Competitive Provider.	ORDER

DISPOSITION: APPLICATION GRANTED

Note: By issuing this certificate, the Commission makes no endorsement or certification regarding the certificate holder's rates or service.

The Application

On November 2, 2026, Wifi Bear LLC (Applicant) filed an application for certification to provide telecommunications service in Oregon as a competitive provider.

Applicant proposes to provide intra-exchange non-switched, private line service (dedicated transmission service) within all exchanges of the telecommunications utilities and cooperative corporations listed in Appendices A and B to this order.

Applicant also proposes to provide interexchange non-switched, private line service (dedicated transmission service) statewide in Oregon. Applicant did not request authority to offer switched service.

Applicant indicates that it intends to construct its own facilities and operate as a reseller for intra-exchange and interexchange service. Applicant may purchase network elements and finished services for resale only from other certified carriers.

Applicant will not directly provide operator services as defined in OAR 860-032-0001 and will not be an "operator service provider" as defined in ORS 759.690(1)(d).

Based on the record in this matter, the Commission makes the following:

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Applicable Law

Two statutory provisions apply to this application. First, ORS 759.020 governs Applicant's request to provide telecommunications as a competitive provider. Under ORS 759.020(5), the Commission shall classify Applicant as a competitive provider if Applicant demonstrates that its services are subject to competition, or that its customers or those proposed to become customers have reasonably available alternatives. In making this determination, the Commission must consider the extent to which services are available from alternative providers that are functionally equivalent or substitutable at comparable rates, terms and conditions, existing economic or regulatory barriers to entry, and any other factors deemed relevant.

Second, ORS 759.050 governs Applicant's request to provide local exchange (intra-exchange) telecommunications service. Under ORS 759.050(2)(a), the Commission may authorize Applicant to provide local exchange service within the local exchange of a telecommunications utility if the Commission determines such authorization would be in the public interest. In making this determination, the Commission must consider the extent to which services are available from alternative providers, the effect on rates for local exchange service customers, the effect on competition and availability of innovative telecommunications service in the requested service area, and any other facts the Commission considers relevant. *See* Order No. 96-021.

Designation as a Competitive Provider

Applicant has met the requirements for classification as a competitive telecommunications service provider. Applicant's customers or those proposed to become customers have reasonably available alternatives. The incumbent telecommunications utilities and cooperative corporations listed in the appendices provide the same or similar local exchange services in the local service area requested by Applicant. AT&T, Sprint Communications, Qwest Corporation, Ziply Fiber Northwest LLC, and others provide interexchange telecommunications service in the service area requested by Applicant. Subscribers to Applicant's services can buy comparable services at comparable rates from other vendors. Economic and regulatory barriers to entry are relatively low.

Public Interest

With regard to the general factual conclusions relevant to this proceeding, the Commission adopts the Commission's findings in Order No. 93-1850 and Order No. 96-021. Based on a review of those findings, as well as information contained in the application, the Commission concludes that it is in the public interest to grant the

application of Wifi Bear LLC to provide local exchange telecommunications service as a competitive telecommunications provider in exchanges of the telecommunications utilities and cooperative corporations listed in the appendices, as described in the application. Further, it is in the public interest to grant statewide interexchange authority as described in the application. This finding will have no bearing on any determination the Commission may be called upon to make under sections 251 or 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (47 USC § 251, 252) with regard to the telecommunications utilities and cooperative corporations in this docket.

Conditions of the Certificate

In Order No. 96-021, the Commission interpreted ORS 759.050 and established conditions applicable to competitive local exchange carriers. Also, other conditions are listed in administrative rules, including among others OAR 860-032-0007. Applicant, as a competitive provider, shall comply with the conditions adopted in Order No. 96-021, as well as all applicable laws, Commission rules, and orders related to provision of telecommunications service in Oregon.

Per ORS 759.050(2)(c) and Order No. 96-021, Applicant shall comply with the following conditions.

1. Applicant shall pay an annual fee to the Commission pursuant to ORS 756.310 and 756.320 and OAR 860-032-0095. The minimum annual fee is $100. Applicant is required to pay the fee for the preceding calendar year by April 1.

2. Pursuant to Oregon Laws 1987, chapter 290, sections 2-8, and to OAR chapter 860, division 033, Applicant shall ensure that the Residential Service Protection Fund surcharge is remitted to the Commission. This surcharge is assessed against each retail subscriber at a rate that is set annually by the Commission.

3. Applicant shall make quarterly contributions to the Oregon Universal Service Fund based on a Commission approved schedule and surcharge percentage assessed on all retail intrastate telecommunications services sold in Oregon, pursuant to ORS 759.425 and OAR 860-100-0110. If Applicant bills the surcharge to its end-users, Applicant shall show the charges as a separate line item on the bill with the words "Oregon Universal Service Surcharge ____%".*

Competitive Zones

All exchanges of the telecommunications utilities and cooperative corporations listed in the appendices to this order are designated competitive zones for dedicated transmission service pursuant to ORS 759.050(2)(b).

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* The company must use the most current surcharge rate, which is found at https://www.oregon.gov/puc/utilities/Pages/OUSF-About.aspx.

Pricing Flexibility - Dedicated Transmission Service

The telecommunications utilities listed in Appendix A are granted pricing flexibility for dedicated transmission service in their respective exchanges by this order. *See* Order No. 93-1850, Docket UM 381.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The application of Wifi Bear LLC is granted with conditions described in this order.

2. Applicant is designated as a competitive telecommunications provider for intra-exchange service in the local exchanges of the telecommunications utilities and cooperative corporations listed in Appendices A and B. In addition, Applicant is designated as a competitive telecommunications provider for interexchange service statewide in Oregon.

3. The local exchanges of the telecommunications utilities and cooperative corporations listed in Appendices A and B are designated as competitive zones for dedicated transmission service.

4. Any obligation regarding interconnection between Applicant and the telecommunications utilities and cooperative corporations listed in Appendices A and B shall be governed by the provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act).

5. No finding contained in this order shall have any bearing on any determination the Commission may be called upon to make under sections 251 or 252 of the Act with regard to the telecommunications utilities and cooperative corporations listed in the appendices to this order.

6. The telecommunications utilities listed in Appendix A shall receive pricing flexibility for dedicated transmission service on an exchange-by-exchange basis, as set forth in this order.

Made, entered, and effective Nov 17, 2026.

Alison Lackey
Chief Administrative Law Judge

A party may request rehearing or reconsideration of this order under ORS 756.561. A request for rehearing or reconsideration must be filed with the Commission within 60 days of the date of service of this order. The request must comply with the requirements in OAR 860-001-0720. A copy of the request must also be served on each party to the proceedings as provided in OAR 860-001-0180(2). A party may appeal this order by filing a petition for review with the Court of Appeals in compliance with ORS 183.480 through 183.484.

APPENDIX A

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EXCHANGES ENCOMPASSED BY THE APPLICATION:

ALL EXCHANGES OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS
UTILITIES LISTED BELOW

Telecommunications Utilities Not Exempt Pursuant to ORS 759.040

CenturyTel of Eastern Oregon, Inc. dba CenturyLink
CenturyTel of Oregon, Inc. dba CenturyLink
Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC
United Telephone Company of the Northwest dba CenturyLink
Ziply Fiber Northwest LLC
Ziply Fiber of Oregon LLC

Telecommunications Utilities Exempt Pursuant to ORS 759.040

Asotin Telephone Company
Cascade Utilities, Inc.
E4 Connect, Inc.
Eagle Telephone System, Inc.
Helix Telephone Company
Home Telephone Company
Monroe Telephone Company
Nehalem Telecommunications, Inc.
North-State Telephone Company
Oregon Telephone Corporation
People's Telephone Company
Pine Telephone System, Inc.
Roome Telecommunications, Inc.
Trans-Cascades Telephone Company

APPENDIX B

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EXCHANGES ENCOMPASSED BY THE APPLICATION:

ALL EXCHANGES OF THE COOPERATIVE
CORPORATIONS LISTED BELOW

Beaver Creek Cooperative Telephone Company
Canby Telephone Association
Clear Creek Mutual Telephone
Colton Telephone Company
Gervais Telephone Company
Molalla Telephone Company
Monitor Cooperative Telephone Co.
Pioneer Telephone Cooperative
Scio Mutual Telephone Association
St. Paul Cooperative Telephone Association
Stayton Cooperative Telephone Co.