

**BEFORE THE MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

Application of Socket Telecom, LLC            )  
for Designation as an Eligible                )  
Telecommunications Carrier                 )     File No. \_\_\_\_\_

**Socket Telecom, LLC’s Application for Designation  
As an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier and Request for Waiver of 20 CSR 4240-4.017**

COMES NOW Socket Telecom, LLC (“Socket”) and respectfully requests the Commission enter an Order granting this Application to designate Socket as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”) pursuant to 20 CSR 4240-31.016 for specific census blocks under the provisions of 47 CFR 54.201(d) to receive federal universal service support through the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (“RDOF”), as well as Lifeline low income support (but not the disabled program), for the provision of broadband internet access, broadband-voice bundled, and voice only offerings. The service area contains 82 census block groups in Boone County, Missouri. A list of the census block groups is contained in **Exhibit A**. The RDOF rules require provisional auction winners to obtain ETC status by June 7, 2020 and Socket therefore respectfully requests expeditious action on this application to meet this obligation. For the reasons stated below, designating Socket as an ETC is consistent with statutory and regulatory requirements and is in the public interest.

In support of this application, Socket states as follows:

1. Socket is a certificated competitive local exchange company in the State of Missouri. Socket is a Missouri limited liability company in good standing (see certificate, **Exhibit B**), with its principal place of business located at 2703 Clark Avenue, Columbia, Missouri 65202, and it can be reached as follows: telephone – 573-817-0000 and facsimile – 573-441-1050, website- [www.socket.net](http://www.socket.net). Socket is a wholly owned subsidiary of Socket Holdings

Corporation.

2. Socket is an authorized provider of intrastate switched and non-switched local exchange and interexchange telecommunications services in Missouri under certificates granted and tariffs approved by the Commission. Socket is also an authorized provider of interstate telecommunications services in Missouri under the jurisdiction of the Federal Communications Commission. Socket provides its regulated services as a common carrier. Socket is also authorized to provide telecommunications services in Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas, but is not a designated ETC in any state. Socket's ownership and management are not shared with another company receiving universal service funding.
3. All inquiries, correspondence, communications, pleadings, notices, orders, and decisions relating to this matter should be directed to:

Carl J. Lumley, #32869  
Curtis, Heinz, Garrett & O'Keefe, PC  
130 S. Bemiston, Suite 200  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105  
Telephone: (314) 725-8788  
Facsimile: (314) 725-8789  
Email: [clumley@chgolaw.com](mailto:clumley@chgolaw.com)

R. Matthew Kohly  
Socket Telecom, LLC  
Telephone: (573) 777-1991. Ext. 551  
Facsimile: (543) 441-1050  
Email: [rmkohly@sockettelecom.com](mailto:rmkohly@sockettelecom.com)

4. Socket's key management includes:

George Pfenenger, CEO

Carson Coffman, COO

Kurt Bruemmer – Director Business Improvement and Control

Zeke Long – Director of Outside Plant

Adam Voight – Marketing Manager

Josh Henggeler – Controller

Dave Sill – IT Director

Janet Moss – Director of Human Relations

Melissa Higgins – Director of Sales

Scott Stratman – Manager of Network Operations

Matt Kohly – Director of Carrier Relations & Government Affairs

Russ Mulkey – Manager of Customer Care

5. As an RDOF recipient, Socket will offer low latency broadband service as both a stand-alone service and bundled with voice service. It will also offer standalone voice service.
6. Socket does not have any pending action or final unsatisfied judgements or decisions against it from any state or federal agency or court which involve customer service, rates, which action, judgment, or decision has occurred within three years of the date of this application.
7. Socket does not have any annual reports or assessment fees that are overdue to the Commission. Socket is compliant in all reporting and assessments requirements. Socket is compliant with contribution obligations to federal USF.
8. No matter has been brought in the last ten years by any state or federal regulatory or law enforcements agency against any of the individuals, entities, managers, or directors associated with Socket or any company sharing common ownership or management with Socket, involving fraud, deceit, perjury, stealing or the omission or misstatement of material fact in connection with a commercial transaction.
9. Socket will comply with the ETC requirements established by the Missouri Public Service Commission and the FCC. Further, Socket commits to maintaining current company contact

information on the Commission Electronic Filing and Information System and to advising the Commission of any changes in its contact information. Socket has checked its contacts in EFIS and confirmed such information is correct.

10. As described below, Socket certifies that it will provide the following services that are supported by universal support mechanisms. Rates, Terms and Conditions for these services will be available at [www.socket.net](http://www.socket.net).

**Voice Telephony** – Socket will meet this requirement by providing voice communications services connected to the PSTN. Socket will be legally responsible for dealing with customer problems, meeting quality of service guarantees, and meeting universal service obligations. Socket will offer voice services on a stand-alone basis and bundled with qualifying broadband services throughout its proposed ETC designated serving area at rates reasonably comparable to rates in urban areas. This service will include minutes of use for local service, and access to emergency service, via E-911 where available. Socket also commits to provide toll limitation services to qualifying low-income consumers.

**Broadband Internet Access Services** – Socket Internet service will provide the capability to transmit data to and receive data from all or substantially all Internet endpoints. Socket will offer low-latency Internet service at actual speeds of 1Gbps downstream and 100Mbps upstream with no data caps throughout the area where Socket is designated ETC.

**Lifeline Service** – Socket will offer subsidized Lifeline voice and broadband services, including voice service on a standalone basis, to qualifying low-income

consumers in accordance with the FCC's rules within its proposed ETC designated serving area.

11. Socket will provide these services consistent with applicable PSC and FCC rules. Socket has not obtained any waivers from the FCC. Socket's RDOF Application is attached hereto as **Exhibit C**. Per 20 CSR 4240-2.135(2), this is confidential market-specific information which relates to services offered in competition with others.
12. Socket will provide these voice and broadband services over a Fiber to the Home facilities-based network owned by Socket in its ETC designated area.
13. Socket will advertise the availability of these services throughout its ETC designated area using media of general distribution in a manner designed to reach those likely to qualify for such services. Socket agrees to comply with all form and content requirements, if any, promulgated by the FCC and this Commission in the future and required of all designated ETCs, including statements that the service is a Lifeline service, that it is a government assistance program, that the service is non-transferable, and that it is available only to eligible consumers and limited to one discount per economic household.
14. Socket will construct and manage its network and provision services in a manner that allows it to remain functional in emergency situations; including those that cause power outages. Socket has multiple, diverse connections to the Internet that allow it to handle spikes in traffic, including those resulting from emergency situations.
15. Socket's request for designation as an ETC in the requested ETC service area is in the public interest. Despite Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers previously receiving high-cost support for these areas, these census blocks are unserved or underserved with broadband internet access availability and granting ETC status will lead to the availability of high-speed

broadband internet access services in the ETC designed area. Granting Socket ETC status will serve the public interest by ensuring Socket is eligible to receive high-cost support. This funding will be used to advance the FCC's goal of deploying voice and broadband networks in rural high-cost areas, ensuring rural consumers, in particular low-income consumers, businesses, and anchor institutions benefit from access to high-speed broadband service.

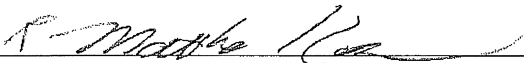
16. Applicant seeks waiver of rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017 for good cause to avoid a delay of 60 days to make this filing and accelerate the introduction of its services and declares that it has had no communication with the office of the Commission within the prior 150 days regarding any substantive issue likely to be germane to this proceeding.
17. For the reasons stated above, Socket respectfully requests: (i) an expeditious Order designating the Company as an ETC in Missouri for the purpose of being eligible to receive federal funding pursuant to the FCC's RDOF auction and the federal and state Lifeline program; (ii) waiver of 20 CSR 4240-4.017 and (iii) such other relief as this Commission deems to be just and equitable.

STATE OF MISSOURI            )  
                                          ) SS  
COUNTY OF BOONE            )

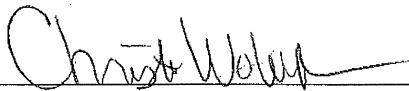
**Affidavit**

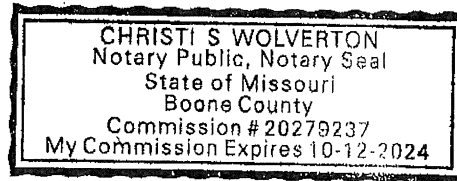
I, R, Matthew Kohly, a natural person, do hereby swear and affirm that I am an officer of Socket Telecom, LLC, the applicant in the above Application (“Applicant”), and that the information and statements contained in this application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

By signing this form, I hereby certify that neither I, nor any other members of this filing party, has had communications with a Commissioner, Commissioner Advisor, Regulatory Law Judge, member of the General Counsel or any member of their support team in the 150 days prior to the filing date of this application regarding any substantive issue included in this filing.

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 14<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public



Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Carl J. Lumley

---

Carl J. Lumley, #32869

Curtis, Heinz, Garrett & O'Keefe, P.C.  
130 S. Bemiston, Suite 200  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105  
(314) 725-8788  
(314) 725-8789 (FAX)  
clumley@chgolaw.com

Attorney for Socket Telecom, LLC



**Certificate of Service**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of this document was emailed to the parties listed below on this 15th day of January.

/s/ Carl J. Lumley

---

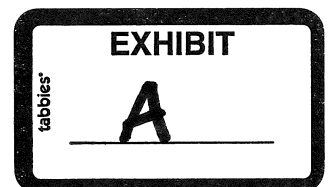
Carl J. Lumley

General Counsel  
Missouri Public Service Commission  
P.O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102  
gencounsel@psc.mo.gov

Office of Public Counsel  
P.O. Box 2230  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102  
opcservice@ded.mo.gov

Attachment A

Census Block	County	Census Group
290190011042014	Boone	290190011042
290190011042015	Boone	290190011042
290190011042029	Boone	290190011042
290190011042034	Boone	290190011042
290190011042038	Boone	290190011042
290190011042044	Boone	290190011042
290190011042050	Boone	290190011042
290190011042053	Boone	290190011042
290190011042057	Boone	290190011042
290190011042059	Boone	290190011042
290190011042083	Boone	290190011042
290190011042091	Boone	290190011042
290190011042099	Boone	290190011042
290190011042130	Boone	290190011042
290190011042146	Boone	290190011042
290190013002003	Boone	290190013002
290190013002007	Boone	290190013002
290190013002011	Boone	290190013002
290190014001048	Boone	290190014001
290190014001062	Boone	290190014001
290190014001097	Boone	290190014001
290190014001138	Boone	290190014001
290190014001159	Boone	290190014001
290190014002020	Boone	290190014002
290190015024003	Boone	290190015024
290190015024010	Boone	290190015024
290190015024017	Boone	290190015024
290190015024027	Boone	290190015024
290190015024028	Boone	290190015024
290190015024031	Boone	290190015024
290190015024034	Boone	290190015024
290190015024045	Boone	290190015024
290190016011003	Boone	290190016011
290190016011004	Boone	290190016011
290190016011006	Boone	290190016011
290190016011007	Boone	290190016011
290190016011012	Boone	290190016011
290190016011024	Boone	290190016011
290190016011026	Boone	290190016011
290190016011027	Boone	290190016011



290190016011031	Boone	290190016011
290190016011039	Boone	290190016011
290190018051001	Boone	290190018051
290190018051102	Boone	290190018051
290190020001000	Boone	290190020001
290190020001003	Boone	290190020001
290190020001004	Boone	290190020001
290190020001005	Boone	290190020001
290190020001006	Boone	290190020001
290190020001013	Boone	290190020001
290190020001015	Boone	290190020001
290190020001017	Boone	290190020001
290190020001018	Boone	290190020001
290190020001020	Boone	290190020001
290190020001021	Boone	290190020001
290190020001028	Boone	290190020001
290190020001095	Boone	290190020001
290190020001096	Boone	290190020001
290190020001098	Boone	290190020001
290190020001159	Boone	290190020001
290190022001010	Boone	290190022001
290190022001019	Boone	290190022001
290510107013019	Cole	290510107013
290539503002050	Cooper	290539503002
290539503003066	Cooper	290539503003
290899603004005	Howard	290899603004
290899603004013	Howard	290899603004
290899603004042	Howard	290899603004
290899603004046	Howard	290899603004
290899603004047	Howard	290899603004
290899603004048	Howard	290899603004
290899603004049	Howard	290899603004
290899603004050	Howard	290899603004
290899603004051	Howard	290899603004
290899603004053	Howard	290899603004
290899603004054	Howard	290899603004
290899603004055	Howard	290899603004
290899603004056	Howard	290899603004
290899603004057	Howard	290899603004
290899603004060	Howard	290899603004
290899603004061	Howard	290899603004
290899603004062	Howard	290899603004

# STATE OF MISSOURI



John R. Ashcroft  
Secretary of State

## CERTIFICATE OF GOOD STANDING

I, John R. Ashcroft, Secretary of State of the STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby certify that the records in my office and in my care and custody reveal that

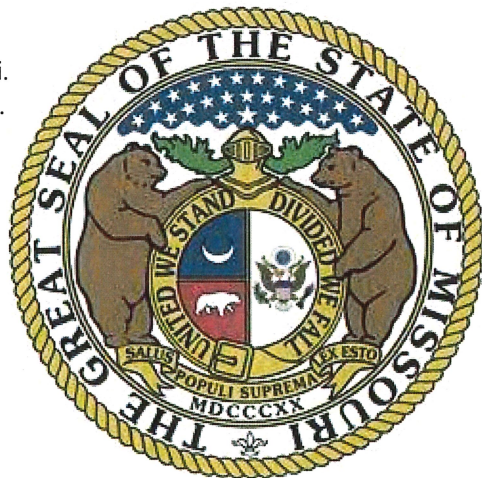
**SOCKET TELECOM, LLC**  
**LC0050887**

A Missouri entity was created under the laws of this State on 5/11/2001, and is Active, having fully complied with all the requirements of this office.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause to be affixed the GREAT SEAL of the State of Missouri.  
Done at the City of Jefferson, the 14th day of January, 2021.

  
Secretary of State

Certification Number: CERT-IN50055



EXHIBIT

**B**

tabbies®