

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of the Application)
of Midwest Data Center, Inc.)
for Designation as an)
Eligible Telecommunications Carrier)
For Purposes of Receiving)
Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Support)

Case No. TA-2021-0250

STAFF MOTION TO AUTHORIZE MOUSF SUPPORT

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, by and through counsel, and for its *Motion to Authorize MoUSF Support* in this matter hereby states:

1. On March 17, 2021, the Commission granted Midwest Data Center, Inc., (Company or Midwest) eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) status for certain census blocks identified in the Exhibit 2 filed with its *Application* in this matter. The status permits the Company to receive federal low-income support and high-cost support pursuant to the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) auction held by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The Company also sought support through the Missouri Universal Service Fund (MoUSF) for Lifeline and Disabled program purposes. However, the Commission’s *Order* granting ETC status did not authorize MoUSF support. Staff now asks the Commission to issue an order granting MoUSF support.

2. The Company is presently certificated in the state of Missouri as a competitive local exchange carrier and has ETC status. The company is compliant with all reporting and assessment obligations with the Missouri Commission as well as the federal USF assessment obligation. Staff recommends that Midwest should be eligible to receive MoUSF support for Lifeline and Disabled program purposes.

WHEREFORE, Staff recommends that the Commission issue an amended or additional order in this matter granting Midwest Data Center, Inc.'s, request for MoUSF low-income and disabled program support; and that it grant such other and further relief as the Commission considers just in the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Whitney Payne

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by electronic mail, or First Class United States Postal Mail, postage prepaid, on this 25th day of May, 2021, to all counsel of record.

/s/Whitney Payne