

WILLIAM D. STEINMEIER, P.C.
2031 TOWER DRIVE
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI (MO) 65109

WILLIAM D. STEINMEIER
ATTORNEY AT LAW
GOVERNMENT CONSULTANT

MAILING ADDRESS:
POST OFFICE BOX 104595
JEFFERSON CITY, MO
65110-4595

(573) 659-8672
FAX **(573) 636-2305**
WDS@WDSPC.COM

January 3, 2011

VIA EFIS

Mr. Steven Reed, Secretary
Missouri Public Service Commission
Jefferson City, Missouri

RE: Case No. TX-2011-0099, Rulemaking Concerning CLEC Financial Test

Dear Mr. Reed and the Commission:

I am writing as an interested participant in numerous certificate application cases since 1996 concerning Competitive Local Exchange Carriers (CLECs). CLEC service in Missouri is statutorily known as "basic local exchange service." To obtain a certificate of service authority to provide basic local exchange service from the Missouri PSC, an applicant currently (and historically) must meet the highly detailed financial criteria embodied in 4 CSR 240-3.510 (1) (D).

I support the proposed amendment in this case. It is our experience that Missouri's CLEC financial criteria are among the most stringent in the nation. The existing criteria create a barrier to competitive entry that is both unnecessary and inappropriate in a competitive market. This firm has had CLEC applicant-clients walk away from the Missouri market due to the egregious nature of the existing financial criteria. On the other hand, this firm has also successfully helped secure CLEC authority for firms that subsequently went bankrupt, a phenomenon cited by Mr. Murray in Staff's comments supporting the proposed amendments. As Mr. Murray observes, in no case have customers been harmed or left without service in the case of bankruptcy of the competitive provider.

As suggested by AT&T-Missouri, the amendment proposed in this case appropriately balances the Commission's goal of streamlining the certificate application process with the interests of other carriers providing service in the State and, I would add, with the interests of consumers in having competitive options. I encourage the Commission to adopt the proposed rule amendments.

Sincerely,

/s/ William D. Steinmeier
William D. Steinmeier