BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Investigation of)	
Aristotle Unified Communications, LLC)	File No. TO-2023-0436
Related to the Connect America Fund)	
Phase II Auction.)	

STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, by and through counsel, and for its *Report and Recommendation*, states herein as follows:

- 1. On June 22, 2023, Staff moved the Commission to open an investigatory docket regarding the compliance of Aristotle Unified Communications, LLC ("Aristotle") with Connect America Fund II Auction funding broadband deployment obligations.
- 2. On July 12, 2023, the Commission opened this docket and directed Aristotle to respond to six specific questions.
 - 3. On August 1, 2023, Aristotle filed its Response.
- 4. Now Staff submits its *Investigation Report*, stating that overall, Aristotle is making false statements to the Commission and has not in fact expanded broadband service in Missouri as claimed, all as detailed in Staff's accompanying *Investigation Report*.
- 5. Consequently, Staff recommends Aristotle **NOT** be included in this year's 54.314 certification so that its universal service funding will stop January 1, 2024.

WHEREFORE, Staff prays the Commission will accept its *Investigation Report and Recommendation* and grant such other and further relief as is just in the premises.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kevin A. Thompson
KEVIN A. THOMPSON
Missouri Bar Number 36288
Chief Staff Counsel

Missouri Public Service Commission P.O. Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102 573-751-6514 (Voice) 573-526-6969 (Fax) kevin.thompson@psc.mo.gov

Attorney for the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served, either electronically or by hand delivery or by First Class United States Mail, postage prepaid, on this **18th day of September**, **2023**, to the parties of record as set out on the official Service List maintained by the Data Center of the Missouri Public Service Commission for this case

/s/ Kevin A. Thompson