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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

CESAR A. PERALES
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January 23, 2012

Honorable Jaclyn A. Brilling, Secretary
New York Public Service Commission
3 Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12223-1350

Re: Case 09-M-0527 – Proceeding to Examine Issues Related to a
Universal Service Fund.

Dear Secretary Brilling:

The Utility Intervention Unit (UIU) of the New York State Department of State's Division of Consumer Protection submits this letter in support of a further interim extension of the Transition Fund, as described in the Notice issued by Secretary Brilling on January 4, 2012 (Notice). The Notice suggests that the Public Service Commission (Commission) may not resolve all of the issues in this proceeding by the end of May 2012. It is likely that the temporary Transition Fund will exhaust its original \$600,000 funding level on or about such date. The Notice, therefore, proposes a limited continuation of the status quo.

As previously contended by the UIU and concluded by the Administrative Law Judge in his Recommended Decision, rural telephone companies operating in high cost areas must be able to draw upon additional funding in order to preserve the provision of universal service in New York State. Accordingly, the UIU supports the proposal to require additional contributions from the current contributors on a monthly basis until such time as the Commission renders a decision on the issues relating to the establishment of a state universal service fund,

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa R. Harris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Lisa R. Harris, Esq.
Director, Division of Consumer Protection

C: Active Parties