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April 20, 2018

Hon. Kathleen H. Burgess
Secretary to the Commission
New York State Public Service Commission
Agency Building 3
Albany, New York 12233

Re: New York State Lifeline Program

Dear Secretary Burgess:

During the 2017 Legislative session, I sponsored a bill that Governor Cuomo signed into law that expands New York State's Lifeline Program to allow wireless telecommunications providers to offer wireless Lifeline service, regardless of whether the provider is a facilities-based provider, and to receive distributions from the Targeted Accessibility Fund (TAF).

Today, I'm respectfully requesting you consider TracFone Wireless, Inc.'s ("TracFone") petition to participate in the New York State Lifeline Program and to receive distributions from the TAF. This petition would: (1) authorize TracFone to provide wireless Lifeline service pursuant to the state Lifeline program; and (2) authorize TracFone to receive distributions from the TAF in the amount of \$11.00 per household per month in order to fund TracFone's enhanced service offering.

TracFone offers Lifeline service to approximately 328,000 households in New York State with funding limited to federal Universal Service Fund ("USE") support of \$9.25 per household per month. However, TracFone also provides affordable telecommunications service to consumers to whom wireless service is otherwise unavailable or impracticable. With this petition, TracFone proposes to expand its service offering in New York State by substantially increasing voice and data usage allowances for eligible households in the state.

As the nation's leading wireless provider of Lifeline, and a proven provider in this state already, TracFone is well-positioned to offer enhanced capability once the Commission authorizes TracFone to receive distributions from TAF. In addition to meeting the basic qualifications for participating in the expanded state Lifeline program, the proposed service meets the needs of low-income households and addresses continued growth in the importance of mobile broadband access.

Low-income households are very reliant on wireless telecommunications services, including mobile broadband. Many TracFone households use the service as their sole telecommunications service. Given the combination of these factors, TracFone's proposal gives New Yorkers an opportunity to participate more fully in this new technological environment, which is what the Legislature intended.

For the reasons detailed above, I respectfully requests that the Commission promptly grant this request for TracFone to participate our state's Lifeline program.

Sincerely,

Marcos Crespo

Guillermo A. Martinez
Legislative Director

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