

**STATE OF IOWA  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
IOWA UTILITIES BOARD**

**IN RE:**

**DOCKET NO. ETA-2019-0001**

**LTD BROADBAND LLC**

**REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED ORDER**

On February 20, 2019, the Iowa Utilities Board (“Board”) granted LTD Broadband LLC (“LTD Broadband”) a designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier (“ETC”) for certain areas in Iowa under the FCC’s Connect America Fund Phase II (“CAF”) program. LTD Broadband is continuing to deploy voice and broadband service to rural Iowans pursuant to its CAF award. On May 7, 2021, LTD Broadband applied for an amendment to the designation to implement an award of funds under the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (“RDOF”) program to provide 1 Gbps/500 Mbps service to additional unserved areas in Iowa. Subsequently, the Board requested additional information and requested responses to certain questions. LTD Broadband has responded to all such requests; the last such response was provided July 6, 2021, approximately four months ago.<sup>1</sup> No additional information has been requested and no explanation for the Board’s delay has been offered. LTD Broadband also promptly paid the invoice from the Board for its RDOF assessment pursuant to the Board’s order of August 12, 2021, despite its concerns with how its application for amendment is being processed.

LTD Broadband’s application has now been pending substantially longer than the initial full designation took, and LTD Broadband believes its application for amendment has now been

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<sup>1</sup> There was also a correction in an annual certification under the current designation in Docket M-4612; that was approximately two months ago on September 10, 2021.

pending longer than the time it took for any other similar RDOF-related took to obtain ETC designation.<sup>2</sup> This delay in obtaining an order has now put at risk the \$23,000,000 of federal support LTD Broadband seeks to invest in Iowa's underserved areas and sidelined LTD Broadband's private investment plans. This is because, on October 20, 2021, the FCC released an order denying LTD Broadband an extension of the deadline by which LTD Broadband was to have obtained its ETC designation for Iowa. LTD Broadband intends to seek reconsideration of the FCC's decision, but as it now stands, LTD Broadband has lost its opportunity to move forward on its RDOF award, to the detriment of Iowans living in unserved areas that would have been the beneficiaries of high-speed broadband service. At a time when Iowa's policy leaders are all emphasizing the importance of additional broadband investment in rural Iowa, leaving this funding on the table would make no sense, and would only delay the improvements in service Iowa's rural communities have long awaited.

LTD Broadband has promptly responded to all requests from the Board and staff, and has demonstrated compliance with the requirements for an amended ETC territory. There is no basis for further delay. Accordingly, LTD Broadband respectfully requests that the Board expedite a ruling on LTD Broadband's application for amendment of its ETC designation.

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<sup>2</sup> In fact, the four months since the last supplemental information was provided in early July is longer than most entire applications have taken to be granted.

Respectfully submitted this 2nd day of November, 2021.

By: /s/ Bret A. Dublinske

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**ATTORNEYS FOR LTD BROADBAND LLC**

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned hereby certifies that on this 2nd day of November, 2021, he had the foregoing documents electronically filed with the Iowa Utilities Board using the EFS system which will send notification of such filing (electronically) to the appropriate persons.

/s/ Bret A. Dublinske  
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