

**Before the
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Investigation of Recent Developments)	
In Federal Low Income Support Policy)	Docket UT-120052
)	

Cintex Wireless, LLC (“Cintex”) hereby files its comments in response to the Notice of Workshop and Notice of Recessed Open Meeting, published by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (“UTC”) on February 7, 2012.

Should UTC, DSHS and all ETCs come up with an interim solution for duplicate Lifeline claims before the national database is fully implemented?

Cintex believes that an interim solution should be in place in Washington before the national database is fully implemented. Such a solution will further reduce waste, fraud and abuse. UTC, however, should not wait until such a solution is implemented before designating additional carriers as eligible telecommunications carriers (“ETCs”) in Washington. The Federal Communications Commission (the “FCC”), in the *Lifeline Modernization Order*,¹ did not believe that such a delay was necessary. The interim solution, however, should be implemented quickly and UTC should take the lead in such implementation.

¹ *In the Matter of Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization; Lifeline and Link Up; Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Advancing Broadband Availability Through Digital Literacy Training*, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, WC Docket No. 11-42; WC Docket No. 03-109; CC Docket No. 96-45; WC Docket No. 12-23 (rel. February 6, 2012) (“*Lifeline Modernization Order*”)

Should the Commission set parameters for ETCs' Lifeline outreach and marketing behaviors? For example, is it appropriate to distribute cell phones at a carrier-sponsored event? Is it appropriate to solicit customers inside or in close proximity of social service agencies?

Cintex does not believe that it is appropriate for UTC to regulate the manner in which ETCs market their Lifeline service. The *Lifeline Modernization Order* adopts numerous measures to eliminate waste, fraud and abuse. Further, all ETCs will be subjected to audits by the Universal Service Administrative Company. If the Washington Commission is concerned that a particular carrier is violating the rules of the program, it may consider revoking the carrier's ETC designation. It can also refer the matter to the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, which is currently investigating a number of ETCs.

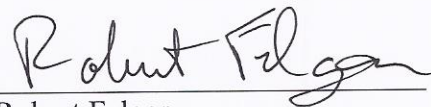
The United States Congress has determined that Lifeline service is a social good. It is an important means by which the government promotes universal service. UTC should not restrict the manner in which lifeline is marketed, thereby treating it as though it is a social bad. Lifeline service should be promoted, not limited by establishing outreach and marketing parameters.

Many recent ETC petitioners are small companies focused solely on provision of lifeline services. Should companies' financial strength be a concern in staff's evaluation of ETC applications? If so, what standards should apply?

Cintex is not a lifeline-only carrier. Nevertheless, Cintex does not believe that UTC should examine companies' financial strength. The solution to the potential financial fragility of ETCs is to designate more ETCs, not examine carries' financial records. With additional ETCs, a lifeline subscriber can easily switch to another service provider in the event that his or her original service provider goes out of business.

Dated: February 21, 2012

Cintex Wireless, LLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Felgar", written over a horizontal line.

Robert Felgar
General Counsel
1800 I Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852