

## **EXHIBIT 7**

## Certification of Eligibility

I, Gary W. Ricketts, am an officer of Whidbey Telephone Company (the Company as set out in the Petition to which this is an Exhibit) and thereby certify that the Company is in compliance with the Federal Communications Commission's obligation for deployment of broadband at speeds specified by the Federal Communications Commission that apply to the Company.

Further, I certify that the Company has already met the Federal Communications Commission's total deployment obligations associated with federal high-cost program support as of the date of the Petition to which this is an Exhibit. I certify that since January 1, 2018, the Company has been deploying broadband to additional locations and certifies that it will deploy broadband to the remaining number of locations as determined by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission by order.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the law of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct as set forth in RCW 5.50.050 and is made this 22nd day of September 2023.

By: Gary W. Ricketts

Title: Secretary & Treasurer

PETITION OF WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY TO RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM THE STATE UNIVERSAL COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES PROGRAM – EXHIBIT 7