

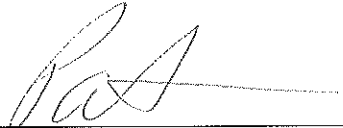
EXHIBIT 10

DECLARATION OF PATRICK L. MORSE

I, Patrick L. Morse, hereby declare that I hold the position of Senior VP of Governmental Affairs with FairPoint Communications and am authorized to make this statement on behalf of Ellensburg Telephone Company d/b/a FairPoint Communications (the "Company").

The Company is showing a high rate-of-return because during the current phase of its investment cycle rate base has been declining. Under the rules established for the Connect America Fund, Ellensburg Telephone Company has the Right of First Refusal to accept approximately \$1,075,000 in annual funding for 6 years, which will be used to build and operate a broadband network to meet the obligations of the Fund. If the Company elects to take the funding, it will lose the current CAF frozen support of approximately \$1,600,000 per year. The final decision to accept or reject the right of first refusal has not been made, .

Should the Company elect to exercise its right of first refusal, Ellensburg proposes to spend State Universal Communications Program funds to expand broadband outside of the area of the CAF II funding.

  
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By: Patrick L. Morse  
Title: Senior VP of Governmental Affairs