

July 17, 2015

Mr. Steve King
Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive SW
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

RE: Removing Washington Telephone Assistance Program language for Ellensburg Telephone Company d/b/a FairPoint Communications

Dear Mr. King:

Enclosed for filing please find the following replacement tariff sheets for Ellensburg Telephone Company d/b/a FairPoint Communications. The effective date of the change is September 1, 2015.


Schedule 3, Second Revised Sheet No. 54 (Lifeline Program)
Schedule 3, Second Revised Sheet No. 55 (Lifeline Program)

This filing removes Washington Telephone Assistance Program (WTAP) language from the Company's tariff. Please also note that we are removing Tribal language as it is not appropriate for our service area. We have no tribal areas in the Ellensburg Telephone Company's service area. A copy of the customer notice is attached. The notice will be included on the bill that is mailed on or about August 1, 2015.

It was only recently learned that the new state biennial budget does not contain funds to continue the WTAP. However, please note that DSHS has made the decision to no longer allow new WTAP customers with the end of the program so close. That policy by DSHS has been in effect since July 1, 2015.

Please contact Beth Westman at 207.535.4249 or bwestman@fairpoint.com with any questions or concerns regarding this filing.

Sincerely,



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Senior VP Governmental Affairs
FairPoint Communications
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**Customer Notice – WTAP Discontinuance
(to be placed on August 2015 bills of customers of FairPoint Communications)**

Important Notice – WTAP Discontinued

The Washington Telephone Assistance Program (WTAP) that currently provides you with a WTAP credit on your bill for local telephone service has not been funded by the Legislature. The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) is discontinuing WTAP due to the lack of funding. Because of this, we have filed a tariff change with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to remove WTAP from our tariff. You will also receive a notice from DSHS with additional information.

The WTAP credit will be eliminated effective **August 31, 2015**. As a result, if you are an existing WTAP customer you will see an increase in your bill for local telephone service provided after that date by the amount of the lost credit. This change does not affect the federal Lifeline program, which offers a credit of \$9.25 monthly to qualifying customers. If you are not already receiving the Lifeline credit, you may call us at 800.400.5568 to receive an application and discuss eligibility.