

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of the

QWEST CORPORATION;
CENTURYTEL OF WASHINGTON;
CENTURYTEL OF INTERISLAND;
CENTURYTEL OF COWICHE; AND
UNITED TELEPHONE COMPANY
OF THE NORTHWEST

to be Competitively Classified Pursuant
to RCW 80.36.320

DOCKET UT-240029

OFFER OF PUBLIC COMMENT
EXHIBIT

BENCH REQUEST NO. 10

- I.* The Public Counsel Unit of the Washington Attorney General's Office (Public Counsel) hereby offers this Public Comment Exhibit Bench Request No. 10 (BR-10) for admission into the record for this proceeding in Docket UT-240029. This matter concerns the Qwest Corporation; CenturyTel of Washington; CenturyTel of Interisland; CenturyTel of Cowiche; and United Telephone Company of the Northwest, collectively the Company, or, CenturyLink. The Company's Petition is pursuant to RCW 80.36.320 seeking competitive classification. The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC or Commission) issued a Notice of Virtual Public Comment Hearing (Notice), with two scheduled hearings, one for 6 p.m. on May 14, 2024, and the second at 6 p.m. on June 6, 2024.¹ The Commission Staff and Public Counsel both received and compiled remarks from customers in response to the Company's

¹ Comm'n Notice of Hearing Scheduling a Virtual Public Comment Hearing (filed Apr. 12, 2024).

Customer Notice.² Customers were also able to provide comments to Public Counsel via email or phone call. In addition, customers could also contact the Commission directly through its online comment web portal, calling into their office, or via email.

2. Public Comment Exhibit No. BR-10. The Commission's Consumer Protection and Communications Staff documented customer comments into a database matrix. The Communications Staff provided the output shown in Attachment 1 to Public Counsel on July 23, 2024. The output from this database is included in .pdf format as Attachment 1 to this exhibit. This Attachment contains all comments submitted to the Communications Staff.³ The Public Counsel Unit received several comments through email, the output from these is included as Attachment 2.

3. The deadline to submit comments to either the Communications Staff or Public Counsel was set by the Commissioners at the second Public Comment Hearing for July 19, 2024. To offer a complete record, we are submitting the database matrix (Attachment 1) and comments received by Public Counsel (Attachment 2) in their entirety. However, it should be noted that while these Attachments are submitted in full, there are duplicate consumer comments. We only count each commenter once, which is reflected in the total number of submitted comments. The count below provides additional information regarding the sum total of comments received by the Communications Staff and Public Counsel.⁴

² See, WAC 480-90-197, WAC 480-100-197. The Company is required to notify customers at least 30 days prior to the date of the relevant public comment hearing.

³ UTC Comment Matrix, Attachment 1 (UTC Comment Matrix). Where a comment is marked *See Attachment* those are included at the end of the Matrix separated by commenter.

⁴ Some duplicate comments are from individuals submitting comments both to Public Counsel and the Commission.

4. The counts for the submitted material are as follows:

a. Comments received by Communications Staff

Opposing CenturyLink’s Petition.....	117
In Favor of CenturyLink’s Petition.....	0
Undecided CenturyLink’s Petition.....	5
Duplicate Comments.....	25

b. Comments received by Public Counsel

Opposing CenturyLink’s Petition.....	10
In Favor of CenturyLink’s Petition.....	0
Undecided CenturyLink’s Petition.....	1
Duplicate Comments.....	8

5. Public Counsel submits a total of 11 comments with two (2) being unique comments in this Bench Request No. 10. Of these unique comments, two (2) oppose the WUTC’s approval of the Company’s Petition. Zero (0) are in favor of the approval and zero (0) are undecided. The Communications Staff submits a total of 122 comments, with 97 being uniquely submitted. Of the total unique comments sent to the Communications Staff, 93 oppose the approval of CenturyLink’s Petition, zero (0) are in favor, and four (4) are undecided.

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DATED at Seattle, Washington this 26th day of July 2024.

ROBERT W. FERGUSON
Attorney General

/s/ Tad Robinson O'Neill

TAD ROBINSON O'NEILL, WSBA No. 37153
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