

EXHIBIT 2

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7 **BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

8 IN RE

9
10 THE PETITION THE TOLEDO
11 TELEPHONE CO., INC. FOR A RULE
EXEMPTION

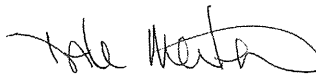
DOCKET NO.

DECLARATION OF DALE MERTEN

- 12
- 13 1. I am the Chief Operation Officer of The Toledo Telephone Co., Inc. (“Toledo”), am over the
14 age of 18 and a citizen of the state of Washington. I make this Declaration in that capacity.
 - 15 2. I am the person responsible for preparing the Petition for Support. Toledo is a small
16 company with a limited number of employees. Unfortunately, I contracted a bacterial
17 infection. I tried fighting it without hospitalization, but ultimately required a lengthy
18 hospital stay.
 - 19 3. Toledo has built a fiber optic network that provides broadband support of up to a gigabyte
20 service throughout its service territory. In doing so, Toledo has undertaken a tremendous
21 debt load that must be repaid in order for broadband service to continue to be provided. In
22 addition, there are ongoing maintenance requirements to maintain the network in its current
23 condition.

1 4. In addition, Toledo has become a community that is desirable for people to relocate to. This
2 is largely a function of the broadband network that is available. New houses are being built
3 all the time. The new construction requires that Toledo continue to expand its network to be
4 able to continue to have a one hundred percent coverage in its service territory.

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6 This Declaration is signed this 22nd day of August, 2022, under penalty of perjury as set
7 out in RCW 9A.72.085.

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9
10 By 

11 Dale Merten
12 VP/COO