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August 4, 2026

VIA E-PORTAL

Mr. Adam Teitzman
Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: [New Filing] – Petition of Frontier Florida LLC for Partial Relinquishment of Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation

Dear Mr. Teitzman:

Attached for filing, please find Frontier Florida LLC's Petition for Partial Relinquishment of its Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") Designation.

Thank you for your assistance with this filing. As always, please don't hesitate to let me know if you have any questions whatsoever.

Sincerely,



Beth Keating
Gunster, Yoakley & Stewart, P.A.
215 South Monroe St., Suite 601
Tallahassee, FL 32301

MEK

Enclosures

Cc:// General Counsel (Harper)
Office of Industry Development and Market Analysis (Hinton)

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

PETITION OF FRONTIER FLORIDA LLC FOR	)	
PARTIAL RELINQUISHMENT OF ELIGIBLE	)	Docket No.
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER	)	
DESIGNATION	)	Filed: August 4, 2026
	)	

**PETITION OF FRONTIER FLORIDA LLC FOR PARTIAL RELINQUISHMENT OF
ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER DESIGNATION**

Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4) and 47 C.F.R. § 54.205, Frontier Florida LLC ("Frontier") hereby requests to partially relinquish its Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") designation effective November 1, 2026. Frontier respectfully requests that the Florida Public Service Commission ("Commission") issue an order confirming Frontier's relinquishment of its ETC designation in the areas specified in this petition by September 1, 2026, to allow time for Frontier to provide sufficient notice to its Lifeline customers in those areas. In support of this petition, Frontier provides the following information:

BACKGROUND

1. Frontier is an incumbent local exchange carrier ("incumbent LEC") in Florida.

The Company's principal offices are located at:

One Verizon Way
Regulatory
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920 USA

2. The name and mailing address of the person authorized to receive notices is:

Beth Keating, Esq.
Gunster, Yoakley & Stewart, P.A.
215 South Monroe St., Suite 601
Tallahassee, FL 32301-1839
(850) 521-1706
bkeating@gunster.com

Peter Saharko, Senior Managing Associate
General Counsel/Public Policy
Verizon
One Verizon Way
Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920
Peter.Saharko@verizon.com

3. On October 14, 1997, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1), the Commission designated Frontier Florida as an ETC throughout its service area.¹

4. Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1), ETCs are eligible to receive federal universal service support in accordance with 47 U.S.C. § 254, in exchange for which they are required to offer and advertise supported services pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.201(d) and meet the obligations associated with the universal service programs in which they participate. Federal universal service support includes high-cost support to deploy and maintain networks in rural and other high-cost areas, as well as Lifeline support for discounts provided to eligible low-income consumers.

5. The main purpose of the ETC designation – to enable the receipt of high-cost support – no longer exists for Frontier in almost all of its service area. Since the FCC’s original Connect America Fund (CAF) program ended in December 2021, Frontier has only been receiving high-cost universal service support for a small number of census blocks, with about 800 locations, where it was awarded Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (“RDOF”) support in the FCC’s 2020 RDOF auction.

6. Additionally, there has been a significant decline in the number of Frontier Lifeline customers. Frontier currently has just 771 Lifeline customers in Florida - a 49 percent decline from just five years ago.² Consistent with the national trend, the vast majority of Lifeline-supported households in Florida have chosen to obtain Lifeline service from one of the many mobile wireless ETCs that have been designated by the Commission or the FCC.³

¹Order No. PSC-97-1262-FOF-TP, Docket Nos. 19970644-TP, *In re: Establishment of eligible telecommunications carriers pursuant to Section 214(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996*, and 19970744-TP, *In re: Implementation of changes in the Federal Lifeline Assistance Plan currently provided by telecommunications carriers of last resort*, issued October 14, 1997.

² Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) data show that the number of Frontier Lifeline customers declined from 1,505 in June 2021 to 771 in June 2026.

³ See Florida Public Service Commission, *Florida Lifeline Assistance*, December 2025, at 14 (“As of June 2025, wireless ETCs received approximately 99.4 percent of all Lifeline disbursements from USAC in Florida.”) For the

7. Under the 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4) ETC relinquishment standard, a state commission must permit an ETC to relinquish this designation in any area served by more than one ETC. Because the Commission has designated a dozen mobile wireless ETCs on a statewide or near-statewide basis, and has also designated fixed providers as ETCs in certain areas, the relinquishment standard is met throughout Frontier's service territory. Frontier could therefore relinquish its ETC designation everywhere except the small number of RDOF-supported census blocks where it must retain its ETC status in order to remain eligible for RDOF support.

8. However, Frontier is only partially relinquishing its ETC designation. Frontier's relinquishment is limited to a small number of wire centers where Frontier does not currently serve customers over fiber-to-the-premises ("FTTP") and does not anticipate deploying FTTP in the near future. Specifically, Frontier is relinquishing its ETC designation in the nine wire centers listed in Exhibit A (the "Relinquishment Area"). Frontier is retaining its ETC designation in the rest of its Florida service area, i.e., in all areas where it has deployed FTTP or anticipates deploying FTTP in the near future, including the wire centers with RDOF-supported census blocks.

9. There will be little or no consumer impact from Frontier's relinquishment of its ETC designation in the Relinquishment Area. Frontier currently has only three Lifeline customers in the Relinquishment Area (representing just 0.4 percent of Frontier's Lifeline customer base), and demand for Frontier Lifeline service in the Relinquishment Area continues to shrink. The small number of remaining Frontier Lifeline customers in the Relinquishment Area will be able to obtain Lifeline service from one of the many other ETCs designated by the Commission or the FCC, including Frontier's Verizon Value affiliate (formerly TracFone), or they may elect to

nation as a whole, USAC disbursement data show that (1) incumbent LEC Lifeline disbursements fell 70 percent over the five years from 2020 to 2025; and (2) incumbent LEC ETCs now receive just 2 percent of Lifeline disbursements. See <https://www.usac.org/lifeline/resources/program-data/> ("Lifeline's Data and Statistics" file).

continue obtaining service from Frontier at standard rates, terms, and conditions. Frontier will provide Lifeline customers in the Relinquishment Area with ample notice of the changes in their Lifeline service, using the same notice timeline that the Commission approved when AT&T Florida relinquished its ETC designation.

10. Frontier is retaining its ETC designation in most of its service area (the FTTP area) so that it can continue to offer broadband Lifeline service to low-income households. On January 20, 2026, Frontier became part of Verizon Communications Inc., which has consistently supported the broadband Lifeline program and has offered broadband Lifeline throughout its FTTP areas since the inception of the broadband Lifeline program in 2016. Even though there has been an overall decline in the number of Frontier Lifeline customers, and an especially rapid decline in the number of Lifeline customers in the Relinquishment Area, there has been steady growth in the number of broadband Lifeline customers in Frontier's FTTP areas, consistent with Verizon's experience in its FTTP areas.

LEGAL STANDARD

11. In 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4) and 47 C.F.R. § 54.205, Congress and the FCC made clear that a state commission "shall permit" an ETC to relinquish its ETC designation in any area served by "more than one" ETC. Specifically, 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4) provides that:

"A State commission . . . shall permit an eligible telecommunications carrier to relinquish its designation as such a carrier in any area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier. An eligible telecommunications carrier that seeks to relinquish its eligible telecommunications carrier designation for an area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier shall give advance notice to the State commission ... of such relinquishment." (Emphasis added).

12. As the Commission has recognized, 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4) does not treat relinquishment by an incumbent LEC any differently than relinquishment by other designated ETCs. Consistent with 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4), the Commission in 2017 and 2021 permitted AT&T Florida to first partially and then fully relinquish its Florida ETC designation based on AT&T's demonstration that there was more than one ETC in AT&T's service area.⁴

13. The Commission's 2017 *AT&T Partial Relinquishment Order* also confirms that an ETC may elect to only partially relinquish its ETC designation. In that Order, the Commission permitted AT&T Florida to relinquish its ETC designation in certain census blocks while retaining its ETC designation in other census blocks.

**FRONTIER IS ENTITLED TO RELINQUISH ITS ETC DESIGNATION IN THE
RELINQUISHMENT AREA**

14. Frontier clearly meets the 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4) "more than one ETC" standard for relinquishing its ETC designation in the Relinquishment Area.

15. Exhibit B provides a list of 15 other ETCs designated by the Commission or the FCC in part or all of the Relinquishment Area. Of the 15 ETCs listed in Exhibit B, 12 are mobile wireless carriers that the Commission or the FCC designated as ETCs on a statewide or near-statewide basis, encompassing all wire centers in the Relinquishment Area.⁵ The other three ETCs

⁴ Order No. PSC-2017-0290-PAA-TP issued July 24, 2017, in Docket No. 170082-TP, *In re: Request for relinquishment of partial eligible telecommunications carrier status, by BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC d/b/a AT&T Florida* ("AT&T Partial Relinquishment Order"); Order No. PSC-2021-0458-PAA-TP issued December 14, 2021, in Docket No. 20210163-TP, *In re: Request for relinquishment of eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) designation in Florida, by BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC d/b/a AT&T Florida*.

⁵ For five of the mobile wireless ETCs listed in Exhibit B, the Commission's designation orders describe the ETCs' service areas using coverage maps that show statewide coverage, encompassing the Relinquishment Area (Amerimex, Global Connection Inc. of America, Air Voice Wireless, Telrite, TAG Mobility). For five other ETCs, the Commission's designation orders describe the ETCs' service areas using zip code lists that include Relinquishment Area area zip codes (Boomerang Wireless, Dish Wireless, TruConnect Wireless, American Broadband and Telecommunications, Verizon Value). Finally, the Commission's designation order for Assurance Wireless describes the ETC's service area using a list of wire centers that includes all wire centers in the Relinquishment Area. The designation order for i-wireless, which was issued by the FCC, describes i-wireless's

listed in Exhibit B are fixed broadband providers, including recipients of RDOF or CAF auction support that the Commission or the FCC designated as ETCs in RDOF- or CAF-eligible census blocks.

16. The USAC “companies near me” database, which lists Lifeline providers by zip code, confirms that Frontier’s service area is served by many ETCs.⁶ According to the USAC database, at least nine ETCs, in addition to Frontier, serve each of the zip codes associated with Relinquishment Area wire centers.⁷

17. Because every Frontier wire center in the Relinquishment Area is within the designated service area of multiple ETCs, 47 U.S.C. 214(e)(4) requires that the Commission permit Frontier to relinquish its ETC designation throughout the Relinquishment Area.

LIFELINE CUSTOMER NOTICES

18. As is noted above, Frontier currently has just three Lifeline customers in the Relinquishment Area. The small number of remaining Lifeline customers will be able to obtain Lifeline service from one of the many other ETCs operating in Frontier’s service area, or they may instead elect to continue obtaining service from Frontier at standard rates, terms, and conditions. If a current Lifeline customer elects to continue obtaining service from Frontier, Frontier will remove the Lifeline discount as of the relinquishment effective date.

19. After the Commission issues an order confirming relinquishment, Frontier will notify its remaining Lifeline customers in the Relinquishment Area that they must select another ETC in order to continue receiving a Lifeline discount after the relinquishment effective date.

service area using a list of incumbent LEC study areas that includes Frontier Florida’s study area.

⁶ <https://www.lifelinesupport.org/companies-near-me/>.

⁷ USAC has noted that some ETCs may not be included in the “companies near me” database.. See <https://www.lifelinesupport.org/companies-near-me/> (“Note: The search results may not show every company that is near you. A company may still offer Lifeline even if is not on this list.”)

Frontier will use the same notice timeline that the Commission approved in the 2017 and 2021 AT&T Florida relinquishment orders. Specifically, at least 60 days prior to the relinquishment date, Frontier will notify any remaining Lifeline customers in the Relinquishment Area by mail that (1) Frontier will no longer offer the federal Lifeline discount; and (2) if the customer does not choose another provider, Frontier will continue to provide service at Frontier's standard prices (including applicable surcharges, fees and taxes) after the effective date of the relinquishment. Frontier will also send each remaining affected Lifeline customer in the Relinquishment Area a second notice letter at least 15 days prior to the relinquishment date. All notices will explain that Lifeline customers can obtain a list of other ETCs from the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), and that they may contact those other ETCs to discuss available Lifeline benefits. Exhibit C provides sample language for the notices that Frontier will send to affected customers.

20. To avoid customer confusion and assist with a smooth transition process, Frontier will stop enrolling customers in the Lifeline program after the Commission issues an order or on September 1, 2026, whichever is later. This Commission-approved approach, from the 2017 and 2021 AT&T Florida relinquishment orders, will prevent a newly enrolled Lifeline customer from having to change to another Lifeline provider shortly after enrolling with Frontier.

21. Frontier requests that the Commission issue an order granting this Petition as soon as possible, but no later than September 1, 2026, so that Frontier can provide sufficient notice to its Lifeline customers prior to the relinquishment effective date of November 1, 2026.

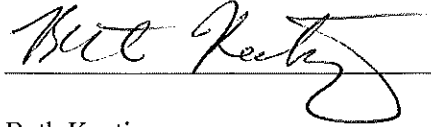
CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Frontier respectfully requests that the Commission grant this Petition expeditiously and issue an order confirming Frontier's partial relinquishment of its ETC

Petition of Frontier Florida LLC

designation in Florida, effective November 1, 2026.

Respectfully submitted this 4th day of August, 2026, by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Beth Keating", is written over a horizontal line.

Beth Keating
Gunster, Yoakley & Stewart, P.A.
215 South Monroe St., Suite 601
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 521-1706

Exhibit A – Relinquishment Area Wire Centers

CLLI	Exchange Name
BBPKFLXA	BABSON PARK
BYSHFLXA	BAYSHORE
BRJTFLXA	BRADLEY JUNCTION
FHSDFLXA	FEATHER SOUND
FRSTFLXA	FROSTPROOF
INLKFLXA	INDIAN LAKE ESTATES
MYCYFLXA	MYAKKA CITY
PNCRFLXA	PINECREST
WSSDFLXA	WESTSIDE

Exhibit B – ETCs Designated in the Relinquishment Area

Mobile Wireless ETCs Designated on a Statewide Basis

ETC	Designation Order
i-wireless	FCC DA 12-934, June 13, 2012
Assurance Wireless	PSC-10-0323-PAA-TP, May 19, 2010 PSC-2025-0085-PAA-TP, March 24, 2025
Boomerang Wireless	PSC-2024-0205-PAA-TP, June 20, 2024
Dish Wireless	PSC-2024-0208-PAA-TP, June 20, 2024
Verizon Value	PSC-08-0418-PAA-TP, June 23, 2008
Amerimex Communications	PSC-2024-0261-PAA-TP, July 24, 2024
Global Connection Inc. of America	PSC-2024-0206-PAA-TP, June 20, 2024
TruConnect Communications	PSC-2024-0202-PAA-TP, June 20, 2024
Air Voice Wireless	PSC-2024-0456-PAA-TP, October 21, 2024
American Broadband & Telecommunications	PSC-2024-0210-PAA-TP, June 20, 2024
Telrite	PSC-2024-0209-PAA-TP, June 20, 2024
TAG Mobility	PSC-2025-0040-PAA-TP, February 6, 2025

Fixed Provider ETCs, Including RDOF and CAF ETCs

ETC	Designation Order
Integrated Path Communications	PSC-2025-0059-P AA-TX, February 24, 2025
Bright House Networks	PSC-2021-0222-PAA-TX, June 17, 2021
Viasat	FCC DA-19-925, September 18, 2019

Exhibit C – Sample Customer Notifications

First Customer Letter

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR LIFELINE DISCOUNT

Date

Customer Name

Address

City, State ZIP

Dear Valued Customer,

Reference Telephone Number: XXX-XX-XXXX Subscriber Name: XXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXX

We will no longer provide a Lifeline discount in your area in Florida through the Lifeline Program beginning xx/1/26. This change is due to our decision to no longer be an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) in your area.

How does this impact you? While your voice service will not change, you will no longer receive the Lifeline discount on your monthly bill. In order to retain your Lifeline discount, you must contact another ETC service provider participating in the Lifeline Program. A list of those providers can be found at lifelinesupport.org/companies-near-me/ or you can call the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) at 800-234-9473.

If you have questions about this letter, please call us at **800-921-8101** to speak with a representative.

Sincerely,

Frontier Lifeline Services

Second Customer Letter

FINAL NOTICE: YOUR LIFELINE DISCOUNT

Date

Customer Name

Mailing Address

City, State Zip

Dear Valued Customer,

Reference Telephone Number: XXX-XX-XXXX Subscriber Name: XXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXX

You were previously advised that we will no longer provide a Lifeline discount in your area in Florida through the Lifeline Program beginning XXXX. This change is due to our decision to no longer be an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) in your area.

How does this impact you? While your voice service will not change, you will no longer receive the Lifeline discount on your monthly bill. In order to retain your Lifeline discount, you must contact another ETC service provider participating in the Lifeline Program. A list of those providers can be found at lifelinesupport.org/companies-near-me/ or you can call Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) at 800-234-9473. If you have questions about this letter, please call us at 1-800-921-8101 to speak with a representative.

Sincerely,

Frontier Lifeline Services