

Writer's Direct Dial Number: (850) 521-1706
Writer's E-Mail Address: bkeating@gunster.com

August 4, 2026

VIA E-PORTAL

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

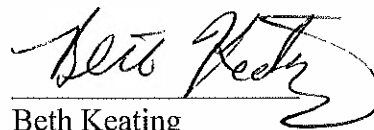
**Re: [New Filing] – Petition of Frontier Communications of the South, LLC
for Relinquishment of Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation**

Dear Mr. Teitzman:

Attached for filing, please find Frontier Communications of the South, LLC's Petition for 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 COMMUNICATIONS	)	
OF THE SOUTH, LLC FOR RELINQUISHMENT	)	Docket No.
OF ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS	)	
CARRIER DESIGNATION	)	
	)	Filed: August 4, 2026

**PETITION OF FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS OF THE SOUTH, LLC FOR
RELINQUISHMENT OF ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER
DESIGNATION**

Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4) and 47 C.F.R. § 54.205, Frontier Communications of the South, LLC ("Frontier") hereby requests to 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 by September 1, 2026, to allow time for Frontier to provide sufficient notice to its Lifeline customers. 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 Communications of the South as an ETC throughout its service area.¹ Frontier Communications of the South's service area consists of the two wire centers listed in Exhibit A.

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. With this petition, Frontier is providing notice that it is relinquishing its ETC designation effective November 1, 2026. Frontier is relinquishing its ETC designation because the underlying purpose of the designation – to enable the receipt of high-cost universal service support – no longer exists for Frontier. Frontier has not received any high-cost universal service support since December 2021, when the FCC's Connect America Fund (CAF) program ended and was replaced by the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF). In the 2020 RDOF auction, the FCC awarded all high-cost support for RDOF-eligible census blocks in Frontier Communications of the South's service area to other providers.

6. Additionally, there has been a significant decline in the number of Frontier Lifeline customers. Frontier Communications of the South currently has only four Lifeline customers. Consistent with the national trend, the vast majority of Lifeline-supported households in Florida

¹ Order 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.

have chosen to obtain Lifeline service from one of the many mobile wireless ETCs that have been designated by the Commission or the FCC.²

7. There will be little or no consumer impact from Frontier's relinquishment of its ETC designation. The remaining Frontier Lifeline customers will be able to obtain Lifeline service from one of the many other ETCs designated by the Commission or may instead elect to continue obtaining service from Frontier at standard rates, terms, and conditions. Frontier will provide its remaining Lifeline customers 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.

LEGAL STANDARD

8. 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).

² 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 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, while wireless ETCs receive 97 percent of Lifeline disbursements. See <https://www.usac.org/lifeline/resources/program-data/> ("Lifeline's Data and Statistics" file).

9. 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.³

FRONTIER IS ENTITLED TO RELINQUISH ITS ETC DESIGNATION

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

11. As Exhibit B shows, the Commission and the FCC have designated at least 16 other carriers as ETCs in Frontier's service area. Of the 16 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 both wire centers in Frontier's service area.⁴ The other four ETCs listed in Exhibit B are fixed providers, including recipients of CAF or RDOF support that the Commission or the FCC designated as ETCs in their CAF- or RDOF-supported census blocks. The FCC also designated one of the RDOF ETCs, Conexon Connect, as a Lifeline-only ETC in additional census blocks.

12. The USAC "companies near me" database, which lists Lifeline providers by zip

³ 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*; 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*.

⁴For 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 Frontier's service 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 Frontier service 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 both Frontier Communications of the South wire centers. The designation order for i-wireless, which was issued by the FCC, describes i-wireless's service area using a list of incumbent LEC study areas that includes Frontier Communications of the South's study area.

code, confirms that Frontier's service area is served by many ETCs.⁵ According to the USAC database, at least 11 ETCs, in addition to Frontier, serve the zip code associated with the Molino wire center and at least 12 ETCs serve the zip code associated with the Walnut Hill wire center.⁶

13. Because every Frontier wire center 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.

LIFELINE CUSTOMER NOTICES

14. As is noted above, Frontier Communications of the South currently has just four Lifeline customers. 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.

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

⁵ <https://www.lifelinesupport.org/companies-near-me/>.

⁶ 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 it is not on this list.")

the effective date of the relinquishment. Frontier will also send each remaining affected Lifeline customer 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.

16. 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.

17. 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 designation in Florida, effective November 1, 2026.

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



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

Exhibit A – Service Area

CLLI	Exchange Name
MOLNFLXA	MOLINO
WLHLFLXA	WALNUT HILL

Exhibit B – ETCs Designated in Frontier’s Service 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
Conexon Connect	FCC DA 21-1286, October 14, 2021 FCC DA 24-1261, December 16, 2024
Integrated Path Communications	PSC-2025-0059-PAA-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