

STATE OF MICHIGAN
BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

* * * * *

In the matter of the application of	)	
the MICHIGAN EXCHANGE CARRIERS	)	
ASSOCIATION, INC. , for certification of its	)	Case No. U-11548
members and Frontier Communications of	)	
Michigan, Inc., as eligible telecommunications	)	
carriers for universal service purposes.	)	
_____	)	

At the April 8, 2021 meeting of the Michigan Public Service Commission in Lansing,
Michigan.

PRESENT: Hon. Daniel C. Scripps, Chair
Hon. Tremaine L. Phillips, Commissioner
Hon. Katherine L. Peretick, Commissioner

ORDER

On November 25, 1997, the Commission issued an order approving the application of Baraga Telephone Company (Baraga), a member of the Michigan Exchange Carriers Association, Inc., for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) for purposes of universal support.

On February 8, 2021, and March 8, 2021, Baraga filed an application and amended application, respectively, pursuant to Section 214(e)(2) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, 47 USC § 214(e)(2), requesting approval to expand its current ETC designation to include all census blocks it was awarded in the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) Rural Digital

Opportunity Fund (RDOF) auction.¹ The application, as amended, applies only to Baraga and not to any other entity that has been granted ETC designation in this docket.

Baraga requests that the Commission approve the proposed ETC designation area shown in Exhibit A of the March 8, 2021 amended application to supplement its prior designated area for the purpose of receiving federal High Cost and Lifeline universal service support. Baraga is currently designated in and provides service to Tribal land and Tribal customers.

Baraga is currently a licensed provider of basic local exchange service in the state of Michigan. As stated in its application, Baraga will offer the supported services using its own facilities and it will offer voice telephony as a standalone service and at rates that are reasonably comparable to urban rates. Additionally, Baraga states that it will comply with the ETC-specific commitments required by the FCC, including consumer protection requirements and service quality standards. Baraga certifies that it will continue to prioritize compliance with all applicable consumer protection and service quality standards.

After reviewing Baraga's application, as amended, the Commission finds that the request to expand the geographic area of Baraga's ETC designation will further the interest of the consumer and should be granted. The Commission also finds that all other aspects of the original November 25, 1997 order remain in effect and that Baraga shall continue to meet all ETC, RDOF, and Connect America Fund requirements.

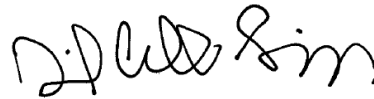
¹ On December 7, 2020, the FCC announced the winning bidders of the RDOF auction. Baraga was selected as a winning bidder and was awarded additional census blocks in the state of Michigan. The auction winners are required to use money awarded in the auction to expand broadband and meet various broadband goals throughout the census blocks. Additionally, the auction award is contingent upon Baraga's designation as an ETC in the census blocks it received as a result of the auction.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the application, as amended, filed by Baraga Telephone Company to expand its High Cost and Lifeline eligible telecommunications carrier designation to include all census blocks listed in Exhibit A of the March 8, 2021 amended application is granted, as set forth above.

The Commission reserves jurisdiction and may issue further orders as necessary.

Any party aggrieved by this order may file an action in the appropriate federal District Court pursuant to 28 USC 1331. To notify the Commission of an appeal, appellants shall send required notices to both the Commission's Executive Secretary and to the Commission's Legal Counsel. Electronic notifications should be sent to the Executive Secretary at mpscedockets@michigan.gov and to the Michigan Department of the Attorney General - Public Service Division at pungpl@michigan.gov. In lieu of electronic submissions, paper copies of such notifications may be sent to the Executive Secretary and the Attorney General - Public Service Division at 7109 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48917.

MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



Daniel C. Scripps, Chair

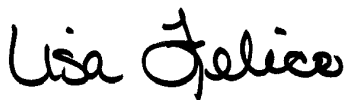


Tremaine L. Phillips, Commissioner



Katherine L. Peretick, Commissioner

By its action of April 8, 2021.



Lisa Felice, Executive Secretary

PROOF OF SERVICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN)

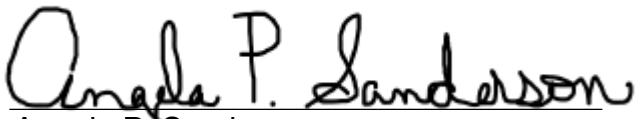
Case No. U-11548

County of Ingham)

Brianna Brown being duly sworn, deposes and says that on April 8, 2021 A.D. she electronically notified the attached list of this **Commission Order via e-mail transmission**, to the persons as shown on the attached service list (Listserv Distribution List).


Brianna Brown

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 8th day of April 2021.



Angela P. Sanderson
Notary Public, Shiawassee County, Michigan
As acting in Eaton County
My Commission Expires: May 21, 2024

Service List for Case: U-11548

Name

Email Address

Baraga Telephone Company
Michael A. Holmes

pwstark@up.net
holmes.michael@telecommich.org