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IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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BEFORE THE

IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE 2017 REVIEW OF
THE IDAHO UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND

CASE NO. GNR-T17-05

POSTION PAPER OF THE
ASSOCITATION OF IDAHO CITIES,
IDAHO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES,
AND,
THE IDAHO RURAL PARTNERSHIP

The Association of Idaho Cities, Idaho Association of Counties, and the Idaho Rural Partnership hereby files this Position Paper in response to the Notice of Public Workshops in Case No. GNR-T-17-05, Order No. 33951, issued on December 21, 2017. The Association of Idaho Cities (AIC) was founded in 1947 and is a nonpartisan, nonprofit corporation, owned, organized, and operated by Idaho's city governments. The Idaho Association of Counties (IAC), formed in 1976, is a nonprofit, nonpartisan service organization designed and incorporated by county elected officials to provide services, research, uniformity and coordination among member counties, in order for the county elected officials to serve their constituents better. The Idaho Rural Partnership (IRP) was founded in 1991 and joins diverse public and private resources in innovative collaborations to strengthen communities and improve life in rural Idaho.

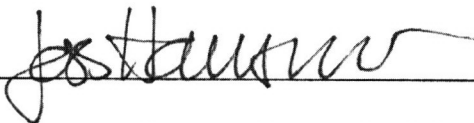
On January 17, 2018, the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (PUC) convened a workshop for interested parties and stakeholders in the Idaho Universal Service Fund (IUSF) to outline the financial challenges facing the current framework and invite comment. The following is our collective position on the matter of the IUSF.

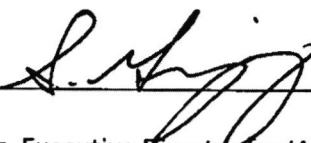
PUC staff stated at the workshop held in January that any meaningful solution would require the introduction and adoption of new legislation as the IUSF framework is established within State statute. The development and support of any legislative changes should include our organizations, and by extension those we serve, as all Idaho citizens will be directly impacted by any such changes.

Therefore, it is our collective position that PUC needs to expand this case beyond the remaining scheduled workshop and engage a broader group of stakeholders to include the public and other public organizations in order to fairly represent both the consumer and the industry. The PUC should then guide this broad stakeholder group towards agreement on basic terms upon which legislative action may be commenced.

Our organizations are poised and ready to participate in any such work.

AIC, IAC and IRP respectfully submit this position paper as of this 31st day of January 2018.

By:  _____
Jessica Harrison, Executive Director for AIC

By:  _____
Seth Grigg, Executive Director for IAC

By:  _____
Jon Barrett, Executive Director for IRP