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**CHRIS D. PADDIE**  
TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
DISTRICT 9

Chairman Walker  
Public Utility Commission of Texas  
1701 N. Congress Avenue  
Austin, Texas 78711

July 13, 2020

RE: Project No. 50796, *Review of TUSF Rate*

Dear Chairman Walker, Commissioner D'Andrea, and Commissioner Botkin,

I appreciate your continued leadership during this unprecedented time for Texas.

During the ongoing public health and economic crises, connectivity is especially important to enable Texans to have reliable, affordable access to telemedicine, remote work, distance learning, e-commerce, and connections with friends and family. Connectivity is important across the entire state, but perhaps especially so in rural areas where the digital divide may disproportionately affect rural Texans.

I understand this proceeding involves the Texas Universal Service Fund (TUSF), which potentially impacts telephone service to citizens across 55% of the state in particular. I am aware of a number of options available to Commission to adjust TUSF to keep the Fund solvent, including some options the Commission has used on numerous prior occasions.

Obviously TUSF is a significant issue for all Texans right now. I am sure you agree that this is a time for all of Texas to stand together.

Again, I appreciate the Commission's leadership during this time, and I trust you will make appropriate choices to ensure the law is followed and that all of Texas keeps the connectivity that is so desperately needed.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Paddie".

Chris Paddie