



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

March 31, 2020

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
United States Senate
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

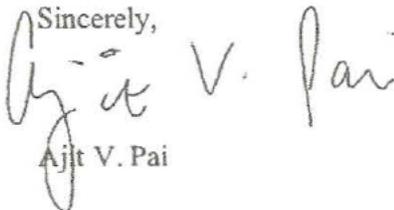
Dear Senator Brown:

Thank you for your letter concerning Windstream Holdings Inc.

Consumers should not be harmed by circumstances outside of their control. This is why the Commission has rules in place to prevent the harm that could result from any interruption in service related to a telecommunications service provider's bankruptcy. Before any telecommunications service provider can discontinue, reduce, or impair telecommunications services to a community or part of a community, section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, specifically requires that carriers obtain Commission authorization. This provision applies to any telecommunications services currently offered by Windstream.

The Commission has not received any such section 214 application from Windstream Holdings Inc., nor has it received any indication that any such application is forthcoming. Indeed, in February 2019, when Windstream filed its required "Notice of Pro Forma Change In Control" with the Commission pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 63.03 to convert its legal status to debtors-in-possession resulting from filing its Petition for Chapter 11 reorganization, Windstream explicitly stated that "[t]he bankruptcy filing did not result in any change to the current operations of Windstream, their address or the terms and conditions of their service. Windstream would like to emphasize that this filing will not interrupt any service operations, nor will it result in a change to the rates or terms of service provided to customers or offered to prospective customers. Windstream's regulated entities intend to continue their existing operations without any change as a result of the filing of the Petition." The Commission's Office of the General Counsel has been monitoring this situation, and will continue to do so.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai