

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DT 14-102

WILLIAM G. WHALEN

Complaint Against FairPoint Communications, Inc. Rate Increase Dispute

**Petition for Intervention of  
New Hampshire Legal Assistance**

Petitioner, New Hampshire Legal Assistance, petitions for leave to intervene in this proceeding, pursuant to PUC 203.17 and RSA 541-A:32, and states as follows:

1. New Hampshire Legal Assistance (NHLA) is a statewide non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization working for equal justice since 1971. Our attorneys and paralegals represent low-income and elderly clients in civil cases impacting basic needs, such as housing, food, veterans benefits, safety from domestic violence, healthcare, unemployment insurance, as well as the protection of affordable basic utility services, including phone services. NHLA participated in the legislative process concerning the development of Senate Bill 48 of 2010.

2. NHLA's mission is to fulfill America's promise of equal justice by providing civil legal services to New Hampshire's poor, including education and empowerment, advice, representation, and advocacy for systemic change. *See* NHLA Mission Statement: <http://www.nhla.org/content/missionhistory-7>

3. This docket raises, *inter alia*, issues related to the statutory definition of "basic service" and the rate caps for basic service in RSA 374:22-b, VIII(b). Both determinations may have a systemic impact on the treatment of phone customers at the Commission, including affecting the affordability of many FairPoint customers (and

potentially other ILEC customers), including many low-income persons who rely on basic phone services such as seniors on fixed incomes. The applicability of the rate caps for Lifeline eligible low-income customers may also be affected. RSA 374:22-b, VIII(b). Accordingly, the rights, duties, privileges and other substantial interests of NHLA and its clients may be affected by this proceeding.

4. NHLA's Executive Director, John E. Tobin, Jr., has authorized the filing of this petition for intervention.

5. NHLA seeks the status of full party intervenor in this proceeding.

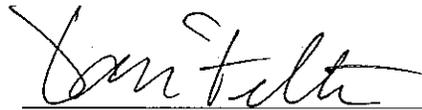
6. The granting of this petition will not impair the prompt and orderly conduct of this proceeding, will not result in delay, and will not prejudice the interest of any party.

7. The interests of justice will be promoted by allowing the intervention of NHLA in this proceeding.

Wherefore, NHLA requests that the Commission grant its request for leave to intervene as a full party intervenor in this proceeding and for such other relief as may be just.

Respectfully submitted,

New Hampshire Legal Assistance



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5/2/14  
Date

Certification of Service

I certify that on this date copies of this petition were hand delivered to the Commission on May 2, 2014, and filed electronically, and copies were sent electronically to the Consumer Advocate and parties on the email list in this docket.

New Hampshire Legal Assistance

  
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Daniel Feltes