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December 29, 2016

Via Hand Delivery and Electronic Mail

Ms. Debra A. Howland, Executive Director
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

***Re: DT 16-_____ - Joint Petition for Findings in Furtherance of the
Acquisition of FairPoint Communications, Inc. and its New Hampshire
Operating Subsidiaries by Consolidated Communications Holdings, Inc.***

Dear Ms. Howland:

Enclosed for filing with the Commission please find an original and six (6) copies of the above-captioned Joint Petition. In order to enable the Joint Petitioners to close on the proposed acquisition of FairPoint Communications, Inc. by Consolidated Holdings, Inc. by June 30, 2017, the Joint Petitioners respectfully request that the Commission establish an expedited process for considering the within Petition, such that an order may be issued by early May, 2017. To facilitate an expeditious process, the Joint Petitioners anticipate filing written testimony supporting the Petition within the next two (2) weeks.

In addition to the undersigned, please include the following persons on the Service List for this docket:

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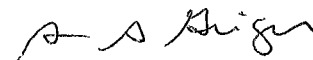
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Lastly, pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rule Puc 203.02(a)(4), an electronic copy of the within Petition is being sent to the Office of Consumer Advocate notwithstanding that the Office of Consumer Advocate lacks authority with respect to this matter. *See* RSA 363:28, II.

Please contact me if there are any questions about this filing. Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,



Susan S. Geiger

cc: Office of Consumer Advocate (electronic mail)
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