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July 5, 2017

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 16-872 - Joint Petition for Findings in Furtherance of the
Acquisition of FairPoint Communications, Inc. and its New Hampshire
Operating Subsidiaries by Consolidated Communications Holdings, Inc.***

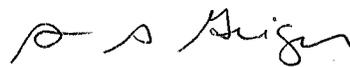
Dear Ms. Howland:

Enclosed for filing in the above-captioned docket please find an original and six (6) copies of a Motion for Protective Order and Confidential Treatment filed on behalf of Consolidated Communications Holdings, Inc. ("Consolidated"). The enclosed Motion seeks protective treatment for a list of key Consolidated/FairPoint employees associated with FairPoint-NNE's Wholesale Services Group as of July 3, 2017, the closing date of the Consolidated/FairPoint merger transaction. This confidential information is being provided to Commission Staff and Labor Intervenors in accordance with Section II, paragraph 4 of a Revised Settlement Agreement which the Commission approved in Order No. 26, 022 (May 31, 2017).

Seven (7) copies each of the redacted and confidential versions of a document entitled "Key Consolidated/FairPoint Employees-FairPoint-NNE Wholesale Service Group" are also enclosed. Please mark the enclosed confidential documents as "Confidential" and maintain them within the Commission offices in a secure location as required by N.H. Admin. Rule Puc 203.08(g). Please contact me if there are any questions about these filings. Thank you for your assistance.

Ms. Debra A. Howland
July 5, 2017
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Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susan S. Geiger".

Susan S. Geiger

Enclosures
cc: Service List (electronic mail)
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