BEFORE THE

GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

HART TELEPHONE COMPANY'S STATEMENT FOR TRADE SECRET PROTECTION

Hart Telephone Company, Inc. ("Hart") hereby files this Statement for Trade Secret Protection for Hart's financial data, including all associated workpapers, pursuant to Section 515-3-1.11 of the Rules of the Georgia Public Service Commission ("PSC"), and states as follows:

1. Rule 515-3-1.11 requires that a party claiming that information constitutes a trade secret provide, in writing, that basis of this claim. Rule 515-3-1.11(c) specifically requires that this statement detail (1) the economic benefit derived from the information not being generally known; (2) the economic benefit to others if disclosure were to occur and (3) the procedures utilized to maintain confidentiality. This statement is submitted pursuant to those requirements. Hart is submitting this statement in accordance with the Commission's rules requiring submission of financial data in response to Staff's Second Set of Data Requests in Docket No. 32235-U associated with the Universal Access Fund High-Cost Filing. The expenses and revenues and other financial information included in these studies are trade secret.

2. The subject trade secret material is financial data, including all associated workpapers, related to the Universal Access Fund High-ost Filing.

3. The release of this expense and revenue information would disadvantage Hart by providing its competitors an unfair competitive advantage by disclosing data regarding Hart's customers and finances that is not generally known and would not

be readily ascertainable to third parties by any proper means. Hart takes all appropriate and legal measures to ensure that such information is disseminated internally only to those with a need to know, and that all public measures are taken to protect the information when it is required to be filed in a public forum.

4. Release of Hart proprietary customer information to the general public would provide Hart's competitors an unfair advantage in a competitive market.

This 18th day of March 2026.

JOHN STAURULAKIS, INC.

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