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Testimony of Neutral Position of Senate Bill 401

**Testimony by CenturyLink
John Idoux, Kansas Governmental Affairs
Before the Senate Utilities Committee
February 8-9, 2016**

Thank you Chairman Olson and members of the Committee. My name is John Idoux and I am CenturyLink's Director of Governmental Affairs for Kansas. I appreciate this opportunity to express CenturyLink's neutral position of Senate Bill 401.

CenturyLink Introduction

CenturyLink has provided communications services in Kansas for nearly 125 years and is the third largest telecommunications company in the United States providing broadband, voice, and managed services across the country. CenturyLink serves over 72,000 rural Kansans in 119 communities including Junction City, Fort Riley, Gardner, and 111 communities with less than 1000 residents. CenturyLink's local service territory covers nearly 11,000 square miles and the statewide density is 6.2 customers per square mile although the company serves 10 exchanges with fewer than 1 customer per square mile (in comparison, New York City has 27,000 people per square mile). CenturyLink also has more than 750 route miles of fiber optics throughout Kansas.

Senate Bill 401 Background

Senate Bill 401 proposes to address the deployment of wireless telecommunications infrastructure and outlines the roles and responsibilities of municipalities and state entities in managing access to the public rights-of-way for such facilities. In certain cities in the State, city officials have worked diligently to properly balance the needs of both the City and the utilities; however, other municipalities have gone in the opposite direction. While CenturyLink does not take a position at this time regarding the specific Act as proposed by members of the wireless industry, CenturyLink acknowledges the need to address a growing concern related to the general administration of public rights-of- ways.

CenturyLink would like to illustrate this growing concern with a recent real-world, Kansas-specific challenge regarding public rights-of- ways. In 2015, a small Kansas community with less than 5000 residents proposed a city ordinance relating to the public rights-

SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

DATE: 2-8-16

ATTACHMENT # 6