

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of the Application of Southwestern Bell)	
Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Missouri, for)	
Approval of an Amendment to an Interconnection)	<u>File No. IK-2021-0231</u>
Agreement Under the Telecommunications Act of 1996)	

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission and submits its Recommendation as follows:

1. On January 20, 2021, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, d/b/a AT&T Missouri ("AT&T Missouri") filed with the Missouri Public Service Commission its *Application for Approval of an Interconnection Agreement* between itself and Talk America, LLC ("Talk America").

2. 47 USC 252(e)(2) provides that a state commission may only reject an interconnection agreement adopted by negotiation if the agreement discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to it or its implementation is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.

3. In lieu of a Memorandum, Staff hereby states that the Interconnection Agreement does not discriminate against telecommunications carriers not parties to it, nor is its implementation inconsistent with the public interest, convenience or necessity. A copy of the Agreement was filed with the *Application*. AT&T Missouri is certificated with the Commission as an incumbent local exchange carrier and is a registered IVoIP provider. Talk America is certificated with the Commission as a competitive local exchange and interexchange carrier.

WHEREFORE, Staff recommends the Commission approve the *Application* and grant such other and further relief as the Commission finds appropriate in the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Ron Irving

Ron Irving
Associate Counsel
Missouri Bar No. 56147
Attorney for the Staff of the
Missouri Public Service Commission
P. O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-8702 (Telephone)
(573) 751-9285 (Fax)
ron.irving@psc.mo.gov

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by electronic mail, or First Class United States Postal Mail, postage prepaid, on this 23rd day of February, 2021, to all counsel of record.

/s/ Ron Irving