BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Complaint against Verizon Florida, Inc. and request for declaratory ruling by Bright House Networks Information Services, LLC (Florida).

Docket No. 041170-TP

PETITION OF CHARLES J. CRIST, JR., ATTORNEY GENERAL, STATE OF FLORIDA, TO INTERVENE

CHARLES J. CRIST, JR., Attorney General, State of Florida (Attorney General), pursuant to Rule 25-22.039, Florida Administrative Code, petitions the Florida Public Service Commission (Commission) to enter an order granting leave to the Attorney General to intervene in this Docket and states:

- 1. The Attorney General, pursuant to Art. IV, Section 4, Fla. Const., is the chief legal officer of the State with his principal place of business in Tallahassee, Florida.
- 2. The Attorney General brings this Petition in his *parens patriae* capacity as guardian of the health, welfare, and safety of the citizens of the State of Florida.
- 3. The Attorney General has broad statutory authority to prosecute and appear in suits in which the State is a party or is otherwise interested. Section 16.01(4), (5), and (6), Florida Statutes. One of the matters in which the State has an interest is upholding the intent and public purpose of legislative enactments.
- 4. Where the public interest is involved, the Attorney General may not only initiate litigation, but also intervene in pending litigation. *State ex rel. Shevin v. Yarbrough*, 257 So. 2d 891, 894 (Fla. 1972). The Attorney General is granted wide discretion in determining what

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particular matters involve the public interest. *State ex rel. Shevin v. Exxon Corp.*, 526 F. 2d 266, 268-69 (5th Cir. 1976). Accordingly, his conclusion that a particular matter involves the public interest is presumed to be correct. *Yarbrough*, at 895.

5. The enforcement of the statutes, rules, and policies at issue in this proceeding clearly involves matters of public interest.

WHEREFORE, the Attorney General respectfully requests that the Commission enter an order allowing the Attorney General to intervene in this Docket.

DATED this 7th day of February, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES J. CRIST, JR. ATTORNEY GENERAL

CHRISTOPHER M. KISE SOLICITOR GENERAL Florida Bar No. 855545

JACK SHREVE Florida Bar No. 73622 Senior General Counsel

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE DOCKETS NO. 041170-TP

I CERTIFY that a true and correct copy hereof has been furnished by United States mail to the following on this 7th day of February, 2005.

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