

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120**

**Pennsylvania Universal Service Fund Annual
Rate Adjustment**

**Public Meeting December 8, 2022
1151742-LAW
Docket No. M-00001337**

STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER JOHN F. COLEMAN, JR.

Before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) for consideration and disposition is an order proposing for calendar year 2023 to establish the size of the Pennsylvania Universal Service Fund (PaUSF or Fund), approve a Fund budget, establish the assessment rate for contributing telecommunications providers, adopt certain recommendations for Fund operations, and establish administrative guidelines for the upcoming year.¹

The Fund administrator opines that the overall PaUSF mechanism may need reexamination due to the continuous decline of the contribution base that supports the Fund coupled with a decline in annual reported revenues. According to the Fund administrator, these two factors have resulted in annual increases to the Fund's contribution assessment factor for the remaining contributing carriers. The order notes that the Commission will monitor this issue to determine whether the PaUSF mechanism may have to be modified to expand its contribution base to offset the burden of increased assessment rates for future years. In my view, any review of the Fund should not be done on a piecemeal basis and should not be limited to the contribution base issue. Rather, the scope of any such review should be comprehensive in addressing whether and what type of PaUSF reforms are needed.

Date: December 8, 2022



**JOHN F. COLEMAN, JR.
COMMISSIONER**

¹ Rolka Loube Saltzer, LLC (Rolka Loube) is the Administrator for the PaUSF. Rolka Loube filed its annual Administrator's Report with the Commission as required under 52 Pa. Code § 63.163(e). The Report provides a Fund income statement, recommendations for Fund operations, and a proposed budget and assessment rates for the upcoming 2023 calendar year.