

FILE

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Annual Filing )  
Requirements for 2016 Pertaining )  
to the Provisioning of High Cost )  
Universal Service. )

Case No. 16-1115-TP-COI

MOTION OF CONTINENTAL OF OHIO  
FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER  
AND MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

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Frank P. Darr (0025469)  
(Counsel of Record)  
Scott E. Elisar (0081877)  
Matthew R. Pritchard (0088070)  
McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC  
21 East State Street, 17th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215  
Telephone: (614) 469-8000  
Telecopier: (614) 469-4653  
[fdarr@mwncmh.com](mailto:fdarr@mwncmh.com)  
(willing to accept service by e-mail)  
[selisar@mwncmh.com](mailto:selisar@mwncmh.com)  
(willing to accept service by e-mail)  
[mpritchard@mwncmh.com](mailto:mpritchard@mwncmh.com)  
(willing to accept service by e-mail)

June 30, 2016

Attorneys for Continental of Ohio

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**MOTION OF CONTINENTAL OF OHIO  
FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER**

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Pursuant to the provisions of Rule 4901-1-24(D), Ohio Administrative Code ("O.A.C."), Continental of Ohio ("Continental") respectfully requests that the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("Commission") issue a protective order to protect the confidentiality and prohibit the disclosure of the confidential information contained in its filing of the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC") Form 481 which is being filed in a redacted form contemporaneously with the Commission in this proceeding. Confidential treatment is sought for the information that is black-lined contained within the FCC's Form 481. The redacted information is competitively sensitive and highly proprietary business information comprising trade secrets. The grounds for this Motion are set forth in the attached Memorandum in Support.

Respectfully submitted,



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Frank P. Darr (0025469)  
(Counsel of Record)  
Scott E. Elisar (0081877)  
Matthew R. Pritchard (0088070)  
McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC  
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Columbus, OH 43215  
Telephone: (614) 469-8000

Telecopier: (614) 469-4653  
fdarr@mwncmh.com  
(willing to accept service by e-mail)  
selisar@mwncmh.com  
(willing to accept service by e-mail)  
mpritchard@mwncmh.com  
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**Attorneys for Continental of Ohio**

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**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT**

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Contemporaneous with this motion, Continental has filed material in an unredacted form under seal. By this motion, Continental requests confidential treatment for competitively sensitive and highly proprietary business information that constitutes trade secrets under Ohio law and the Commission's rules. State law recognizes the need to protect information that is confidential in nature. Accordingly, the General Assembly granted the Commission statutory authority to exempt certain documents from disclosure.<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to this statutory grant of authority, the Commission promulgated Rule 4901-1-24, O.A.C. Rule 4901-1-24(D), O.A.C., provides for the issuance of an order that is necessary to protect the confidentiality of information contained in documents filed at the Commission to the extent that state and federal law prohibit the release of such information and where non-disclosure of the information is not inconsistent with the purposes of Title 49 of the Revised Code.

Trade secrets protected by state law are not considered public records and are

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<sup>1</sup> See Sections 4901.12 and 4905.07, Revised Code.

therefore exempt from public disclosure.<sup>2</sup> A trade secret is defined by Section 1333.61(D), Revised Code, as follows:

"Trade secret" means information, including the whole or any portion or phase of any scientific or technical information, design, process, procedure, formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique, or improvement, or any **business information or plans, financial information**, or listing of names, addresses, or telephone numbers, that satisfies both of the following:

(1) It derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use.

(2) It is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy.

Section 1333.61(D), Revised Code (emphasis added).

The information contained within this material is competitively sensitive and highly proprietary business and financial information falling within the statutory characterization of a trade secret.<sup>3</sup> Public disclosure of the information would jeopardize Continental's business position and its ability to compete.

Non-disclosure of the information will not impair the purposes of Title 49 as the Commission and its Staff will have full access to the confidential information in order to complete its review process. Because Continental's information constitutes a trade secret, it should be accorded protected status.

WHEREFORE, Continental of Ohio respectfully requests that this Motion for Protective Order be granted for the reasons set forth herein.

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<sup>2</sup> Section 149.43(A)(1)(v), Revised Code; *State ex rel. The Plain Dealer v. Ohio Dept. of Insurance*, 80 Ohio St. 3d 513, 530 (1997).

<sup>3</sup> Section 1333.61(D), Revised Code.

Respectfully submitted,



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Frank P. Darr (0025469)  
(Counsel of Record)  
Scott E. Elisar (0081877)  
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selisar@mwncmh.com  
(willing to accept service by e-mail)  
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**Attorneys for Continental of Ohio**