

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

In re:)	
)	Chapter 11
WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC., <i>et al.</i> , ¹)	Case No. 19-22312 (RDD)
)	
Debtors.)	(Jointly Administered)
)	

**FINAL ORDER APPROVING
NOTIFICATION AND HEARING PROCEDURES
FOR CERTAIN TRANSFERS OF AND DECLARATIONS
OF WORTHLESSNESS WITH RESPECT TO COMMON STOCK**

Upon the unopposed motion (the “Motion”)² of the above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the “Debtors”) for entry of a final order (this “Final Order”), (a) approving the Procedures related to transfers of, and declarations of worthlessness with respect to, Beneficial Ownership of Common Stock, and (b) directing that any purchase, sale, other transfer of, or declaration of worthlessness with respect to, Beneficial Ownership of Common Stock in violation of the Procedures shall be null and void *ab initio*, all as more fully set forth in the Motion; and upon the First Day Declaration; and this Court having jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157(a)-(b) and 1334(b) and the *Amended Standing Order of Reference from the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York*, dated February 1, 2012; and this Court having found that this is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b) that this Court may decide by a final order consistent with Article III of the United States

¹ The last four digits of Debtor Windstream Holdings, Inc.’s tax identification number are 7717. Due to the large number of debtor entities in these chapter 11 cases, for which the Debtors have requested joint administration, a complete list of the debtor entities and the last four digits of their federal tax identification numbers is not provided herein. A complete list of such information may be obtained on the website of the Debtors’ proposed claims and noticing agent at <http://www.kccllc.net/windstream>. The location of the Debtors’ service address for purposes of these chapter 11 cases is: 4001 North Rodney Parham Road, Little Rock, Arkansas 72212.

² Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the Motion.



Constitution; and this Court having found that venue of the Motion in this district is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; and this Court having found that the Debtors' notice of the Motion and opportunity for a hearing on the Motion were appropriate under the circumstances and that no other notice need be provided; and upon the record of the hearings held by the Court on the Motion and all of the proceedings herein; and after due deliberation this Court having determined that the legal and factual bases set forth in the Motion and at the hearings establish just cause for the relief granted herein, it is HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Motion is granted on a final basis as set forth herein.
2. The Procedures, as set forth in Exhibit 1 attached to the Interim Order [Docket No. 55], are hereby approved on a final basis.
3. Any transfer of, or declaration of worthlessness with respect to, Beneficial Ownership of Common Stock in violation of the Procedures, including but not limited to the notice requirements, shall be null and void *ab initio*.
4. In the case of any such transfer of Beneficial Ownership of Common Stock in violation of the Procedures, including but not limited to the notice requirements, the person or entity making such transfer shall be required to take remedial actions specified by the Debtors, which may include the actions specified in Private Letter Ruling 201010009 (Dec. 4, 2009), to appropriately reflect that such transfer is null and void *ab initio*.
5. In the case of any such declaration of worthlessness with respect to Beneficial Ownership of Common Stock in violation of the Procedures, including the notice requirements, the person or entity making such declaration shall be required to file an amended tax return revoking such declaration and any related deduction to appropriately reflect that such declaration is void *ab initio*.

6. The Debtors, in their sole discretion and in writing, may retroactively or prospectively waive any and all restrictions, stays, and notification procedures set forth in the Procedures; *provided, however*, that the Debtors shall provide the advisors to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the “Committee”) with advance written notice of any such waiver(s).

7. To the extent that this Final Order is inconsistent with any prior order or pleading with respect to the Motion in these chapter 11 cases, the terms of this Final Order shall govern.

8. The requirements set forth in this Final Order are in addition to the requirements of applicable law and do not excuse compliance therewith.

9. Notwithstanding the relief granted in this Final Order and any actions taken pursuant to such relief, nothing in this Final Order shall be deemed: (a) an admission as to the validity of any particular claim against the Debtors; (b) a waiver of the rights of the Debtors or the Committee to dispute any particular claim on any grounds; (c) a promise or requirement to pay any particular claim; (d) an implication or admission that any particular claim is of a type specified or defined in this Final Order or the Motion; (e) a request or authorization to assume any agreement, contract, or lease pursuant to section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code; (f) a waiver or limitation of the Debtors’ rights under the Bankruptcy Code or any other applicable law; or (g) a concession by the Debtors that any liens (contractual, common law, statutory, or otherwise) satisfied pursuant to the Motion are valid, and the Debtors expressly reserve their rights to contest the extent, validity, or perfection or seek avoidance of all such liens. Any payment made pursuant to this Order is not intended and should not be construed as an admission as to the validity of any particular claim or a waiver of the Debtors’ or the Committee’s rights to subsequently dispute such claim.

10. Notwithstanding the relief granted in this Final Order, any payment made by the Debtors pursuant to the authority granted herein shall be subject to any order authorizing use of cash collateral or postpetition financing.

11. Notice of the Motion as provided therein shall be deemed good and sufficient notice of such Motion and the requirements of Bankruptcy Rule 6004(a) and the Local Rules are satisfied by such notice.

12. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, the terms and conditions of this Final Order are immediately effective and enforceable upon its entry.

13. The Debtors are authorized to take all actions necessary to effectuate the relief granted in this Final Order in accordance with the Motion.

14. This Court retains exclusive jurisdiction with respect to all matters arising from or related to the implementation, interpretation, and enforcement of this Final Order.

Dated: White Plains, New York
April 22, 2019

/s/Robert D. Drain
THE HONORABLE ROBERT D. DRAIN
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE