

4. If you are a member of the Settlement Class and you do not elect to request exclusion from the Settlement Class, you are bound by the terms of any judgment entered in the Action, including the releases provided therein, WHETHER OR NOT YOU SUBMIT A PROOF OF CLAIM.

5. It is important that you completely read and understand the Notice that accompanies this Proof of Claim, including the Plan of Allocation of the Net Settlement Fund set forth in the Notice. The Notice describes the proposed Settlement, how Settlement Class Members are affected by the Settlement, and the manner in which the Net Settlement Fund will be distributed if the Settlement and Plan of Allocation are approved by the Court. The Notice also contains the definitions of many of the defined terms (which are indicated by initial capital letters) used in this Proof of Claim. By signing and submitting this Proof of Claim, you will be certifying that you have read and that you understand the Notice, including the terms of the releases described therein and provided for herein.

B. Claimant Identification

1. This Proof of Claim is directed to: (i) all Persons or entities who acquired Windstream common stock in exchange for their shares of EarthLink in connection with the close of the Merger between EarthLink Holdings Corp. ("EarthLink") and Windstream Holdings, Inc. ("Windstream") on or about February 27, 2017, and were damaged thereby; (ii) all Persons or entities who held EarthLink common stock as of January 23, 2017, the record date for EarthLink stockholders in the Merger, and acquired Windstream common stock in exchange for their shares of EarthLink in connection with the close of the Merger on or about February 27, 2017, and were damaged thereby; and (iii) all Persons or entities who purchased or otherwise acquired Windstream common stock pursuant and/or traceable to the Offering Documents, and were damaged thereby. Excluded from the Settlement Class are Defendants and their immediate families, any entity in which a Defendant has a controlling interest, and the legal representatives, heirs, successors, or assigns of any such excluded party. Also excluded from the Settlement Class are all Persons and entities who timely and validly request exclusion from the Settlement Class in accordance with the requirements set by the Court in connection with the Notice and the legal representatives, affiliates, heirs, successors, or assigns of any such excluded Person.

2. If you held shares of EarthLink common stock that were exchanged for Windstream common stock in connection with the close of the merger between EarthLink and Windstream on or about February 27, 2017 (the "Merger") and/or purchased or otherwise acquired Windstream common stock pursuant and/or traceable to the Offering Documents and held the certificate(s) in your name, you are the beneficial purchaser or acquirer as well as the record purchaser or acquirer. If, however, the certificate(s) were registered in the name of a third party, such as a nominee or brokerage firm, you are the beneficial holder and the third party is the record holder.

3. Use Part II of this form entitled "Claimant Identification" to identify the beneficial owner(s) of: (a) the shares of Windstream common stock that were either received in exchange for EarthLink common stock in connection with the Merger or were purchased or otherwise acquired pursuant and/or traceable to the Offering Documents; and (b) subsequent sales in Windstream common stock. The complete name(s) of the beneficial owner(s) must be entered. THIS CLAIM MUST BE FILED AND SIGNED BY THE ACTUAL BENEFICIAL PURCHASER(S) OR ACQUIRER(S) OR THE LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE OF SUCH PURCHASER(S) OR ACQUIRER(S) OF WINDSTREAM COMMON STOCK THAT WAS EITHER RECEIVED IN EXCHANGE FOR EARTHLINK COMMON STOCK IN CONNECTION WITH THE MERGER OR WAS PURCHASED OR OTHERWISE ACQUIRED PURSUANT AND/OR TRACEABLE TO THE OFFERING DOCUMENTS.

4. Windstream issued the following documents (the "Offering Documents") in connection with the Merger: (a) the registration statement on Form S-4 that Windstream filed with the SEC on December 8, 2016, as amended on January 9, 2017, and January 13, 2017 (which, in the case of the January 13, 2017 amendment, was filed with the SEC on January 17, 2017), and declared effective on January 17, 2017; (b) the joint proxy statement/prospectus that Windstream filed with the SEC under Rule 424(B)(3) on January 24, 2017, and that was mailed to EarthLink and Windstream stockholders on or about January 25, 2017; (c) the joint proxy/prospectus that EarthLink filed with the SEC on Schedule 14A as a proxy statement on January 24, 2017; (d) the 8-K that EarthLink filed with the SEC pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act on February 14, 2017; and (e) all documents incorporated by reference in, or supplements to, any of the foregoing documents.

5. Windstream then issued shares of common stock pursuant to these Offering Documents. Persons who acquired shares of Windstream common stock that are "traceable" to the Offering Documents (as opposed to generally on the open market) may be entitled to compensation under the Plan of Allocation. If you believe that other shares of Windstream common stock that you acquired after the Merger are specifically traceable to shares of Windstream common stock issued pursuant to the Offering Documents in connection with the Merger, you must submit documents with your Proof of Claim showing that the specific shares you purchased or otherwise acquired were in fact issued pursuant to the Offering Documents.

6. All joint beneficial owners must sign this Proof of Claim and be identified in Part II. The complete names and last four digits of the Social Security (or full Taxpayer Identification) Number and telephone number of the beneficial owner may be used in verifying the claim. Failure to provide the foregoing information could delay verification of your claim or result in rejection of the claim.

7. **One Proof of Claim should be submitted for each separate legal entity.** Separate Proofs of Claim should be submitted for each separate legal entity (e.g., a claim from joint owners should not include separate transactions of just one of the joint owners, and an individual should not combine his or her IRA transactions with transactions made solely in the individual's name). Conversely, a single Proof of Claim should be submitted on behalf of one legal entity including all transactions made by that entity on one Proof of Claim, no matter how many separate accounts that entity has (e.g., a corporation with multiple brokerage accounts should include all transactions made in all accounts on one Proof of Claim).

8. Agents, executors, administrators, guardians, and trustees must complete and sign the Proof of Claim on behalf of persons represented by them, and they must:

- (a) expressly state the capacity in which they are acting;
- (b) identify the name, account number, last four digits of the Social Security Number (or full Taxpayer Identification Number), address, and telephone number of the beneficial owner of (or other person or entity on whose behalf they are acting with respect to) the Windstream common stock that was either received in exchange for EarthLink common stock in connection with the Merger or was purchased or otherwise acquired pursuant and/or traceable to the Offering Documents; and
- (c) furnish herewith evidence of their authority to bind to the Proof of Claim the person or entity on whose behalf they are acting. (Authority to complete and sign a Proof of Claim cannot be established by stockbrokers demonstrating only that they have discretionary authority to trade securities in another person's accounts.)

9. By submitting a signed Proof of Claim, you will be swearing that you:

- (a) own or owned the Windstream common stock you have listed in the Proof of Claim that was either received in exchange for EarthLink common stock in connection with the Merger or was purchased or otherwise acquired pursuant and/or traceable to the Offering Documents and engaged in the subsequent listed transactions in Windstream common stock; or
- (b) are expressly authorized to act on behalf of the owner thereof.

C. Proof of Claim

1. Use Part III of this form entitled "Schedule of Transactions in EarthLink and Windstream Common Stock" to supply all required details of your requested holdings and/or transaction(s) in EarthLink and Windstream common stock. If you need more space or additional schedules, attach separate sheets giving all of the required information in substantially the same form. Sign and print or type your name on each additional sheet.

2. On the schedules, provide all of the requested information with respect to all of your shares of Windstream common stock: (a) that was either received in exchange for EarthLink common stock in connection with the Merger or was purchased or otherwise acquired pursuant and/or traceable to the Offering Documents in connection with the Merger; and (b) all of your purchases, acquisitions, and sales of Windstream common stock that took place at any time from February 27, 2017 through March 31, 2018, inclusive. Failure to report all such transactions and holdings may result in the rejection of your claim.

3. List each transaction separately and in chronological order, by trade date, beginning with the earliest. You must accurately provide the month, day, and year of each transaction you list.

4. You are required to submit genuine and sufficient documentation for all of the requested transactions in and holdings of EarthLink and Windstream common stock set forth in the Proof of Claim. Documentation may consist of copies of brokerage confirmation slips, monthly brokerage account statements, or an authorized statement from your broker containing the transactional and holding information found in a broker confirmation slip or account statement. If you believe that any of the Windstream common stock that you purchased or otherwise acquired after the Merger is traceable to the Windstream common stock that was issued pursuant to the Offering Documents, provide documentation showing that the specific shares you purchased or otherwise acquired were issued pursuant to the Offering Documents. The parties and the Claims Administrator do not independently have information about your investments in EarthLink and Windstream common stock. **IF SUCH DOCUMENTS ARE NOT IN YOUR POSSESSION, PLEASE OBTAIN COPIES OF THE DOCUMENTS OR EQUIVALENT DOCUMENTS FROM YOUR BROKER. FAILURE TO SUPPLY THIS DOCUMENTATION MAY RESULT IN THE REJECTION OF YOUR CLAIM. DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS. Please keep a copy of all documents that you send to the Claims Administrator. Also, do not highlight any portion of the Proof of Claim or any supporting documents.**

5. The above requests are designed to provide the minimum amount of information necessary to process the simplest claims. The Claims Administrator may request additional information as required to efficiently and reliably calculate your losses. In the event the Claims Administrator cannot perform the calculation accurately or at a reasonable cost to the Settlement Class with the information provided, the Claims Administrator may condition acceptance of the claim upon the production of additional information and/or the claimant's responsibility for any increased costs due to the nature and/or scope of the claim.

6. If the Court approves the Settlement, payments to eligible Authorized Claimants pursuant to the Plan of Allocation (or such other plan of allocation as the Court approves) will be made after any appeals are resolved, and after the completion of all claims processing. The claims process will take substantial time to complete fully and fairly. Please be patient.

7. **PLEASE NOTE:** As set forth in the Plan of Allocation, each Authorized Claimant shall receive his, her, or its *pro rata* share of the Net Settlement Fund. If the prorated payment to any Authorized Claimant calculates to less than \$10.00, it will not be included in the calculation and no distribution will be made to that Authorized Claimant.

8. If you have questions concerning the Proof of Claim, or need additional copies of the Proof of Claim or the Notice, you may contact the Claims Administrator at the address on the first page of the Proof of Claim, by email at info@earthlinkmergersettlement.com, or by toll-free phone at 1-866-967-0679, or you can visit the website, www.EarthLinkMergerSettlement.com, where copies of the Proof of Claim and Notice are available for downloading.

9. **NOTICE REGARDING ELECTRONIC FILES:** Certain claimants with large numbers of transactions may request, or may be requested, to submit information regarding their transactions in electronic files. All such claimants **MUST** also submit a manually signed paper Proof of Claim whether or not they also submit electronic copies. To obtain the **mandatory** electronic filing requirements and file layout, you may visit the Settlement website at www.EarthLinkMergerSettlement.com or you may email the Claims Administrator at edata@veritaglobal.com. **Any file not in accordance with the required electronic filing format will be subject to rejection.** Only one claim should be submitted for each separate legal entity (see ¶B.7 above) and the **complete** name of the beneficial owner(s) of the securities must be entered where called for (see ¶B.3 above). Distribution payments must be made by check or electronic payment payable to the Authorized Claimant (beneficial account owner). The third-party filer shall not be the payee of any distribution payment check or electronic distribution payment. No electronic files will be considered to have been submitted unless the Claims Administrator issues an email to that effect. **Do not assume that your file has been received until you receive this email. If you do not receive such an email within 10 days of your submission, you should contact the Claims Administrator at edata@veritaglobal.com to inquire about your file and confirm it was received.**

IMPORTANT: PLEASE NOTE

YOUR CLAIM IS NOT DEEMED FILED UNTIL YOU RECEIVE AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT POSTCARD. THE CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR WILL ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF YOUR PROOF OF CLAIM BY MAIL, WITHIN 60 DAYS. IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT POSTCARD WITHIN 60 DAYS, CALL THE CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR TOLL FREE AT 1-866-967-0679.

Official
Office
Use
Only

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS

Murray v. EarthLink Holdings Corp., et al.

No. 4:18-cv-00202-JM

PROOF OF CLAIM AND RELEASE FORM

**Must Be Postmarked (if Mailed)
or Received (if Submitted Online)
No Later Than February 3, 2025**

ETLK

Please Type or Print in the Boxes Below
Must use Black or Blue Ink or your claim
may be deemed deficient.

PART II. CLAIMANT IDENTIFICATION

Last Name M.I. First Name

Last Name (Co-Beneficial Owner) M.I. First Name (Co-Beneficial Owner)

IRA Joint Tenancy Employee Individual Other

Company Name (Beneficial Owner - If Claimant is not an Individual) or Custodian Name if an IRA (specify)

Trustee/Asset Manager/Nominee/Record Owner's Name (If Different from Beneficial Owner Listed Above)

Account#/Fund# (Not Necessary for Individual Filers)

Last Four Digits of Social Security Number or Taxpayer Identification Number

Telephone Number (Primary Daytime) Telephone Number (Alternate)

Email Address

MAILING INFORMATION

Address

Address (cont.)

City State ZIP Code

Foreign Province Foreign Postal Code Foreign Country Name/Abbreviation

FOR CLAIMS PROCESSING ONLY	OB <input type="text"/>	CB <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/> ATP <input type="radio"/> KE <input type="radio"/> ICI	<input type="radio"/> BE <input type="radio"/> DR <input type="radio"/> EM	<input type="radio"/> FL <input type="radio"/> ME <input type="radio"/> ND	<input type="radio"/> OP <input type="radio"/> RE <input type="radio"/> SH	MM / DD / YYYY	FOR CLAIMS PROCESSING ONLY
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YOU MUST READ AND SIGN THE SUBMISSION TO JURISDICTION OF COURT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, RELEASE, AND CERTIFICATIONS ON PAGE 8. FAILURE TO SIGN THE SUBMISSION TO JURISDICTION OF COURT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, RELEASE, AND CERTIFICATIONS MAY RESULT IN A DELAY IN PROCESSING OR THE REJECTION OF YOUR CLAIM.

By signing and submitting this Proof of Claim, the claimant(s) or person(s) who represent(s) the claimant(s) agrees to the Submission of Jurisdiction of Court, Acknowledgments, Release, and Certifications below.

PART IV. SUBMISSION TO JURISDICTION OF COURT AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I (we) submit this Proof of Claim under the terms of the Stipulation of Settlement dated September 4, 2024 ("Stipulation") described in the Notice. I (we) also submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas, with respect to implementing and enforcing the Settlement or matters, including my (our) claim as a Settlement Class Member (as defined in the Notice) and for purposes of enforcing the release set forth herein. I (we) further acknowledge that I am (we are) bound by and subject to the terms of any judgment that may be entered in the Action. I (we) agree to furnish additional information to Lead Counsel and/or the Claims Administrator to support this claim if required to do so. I (we) have not submitted any other claim covering the same acquisition(s) of Windstream common stock that was either: (a) received in exchange for EarthLink common stock in connection with the Merger; or (b) purchased or otherwise acquired pursuant and/or traceable to the Offering Documents and know of no other Person having done so on my (our) behalf.

PART V. RELEASE AND CERTIFICATIONS

1. I (we) hereby acknowledge that pursuant to the terms of the Stipulation, without further action by anyone, upon the Effective Date of the Settlement, I (we) on behalf of myself (ourselves) and my (our) heirs, beneficiaries, executors, administrators, predecessors, successors, representatives, or assignees, in their capacity as such: (a) shall be deemed to have, and by operation of law and of the Judgment shall have, fully, finally, and forever compromised, settled, released, relinquished, waived, and discharged against each and every one of the Released Defendant Parties (whether or not I (we) share in the Net Settlement Fund) any and all Released Plaintiffs' Claims (including, without limitation, Unknown Claims); and (b) shall forever be barred and enjoined from asserting, commencing, instituting, prosecuting, assisting, or maintaining any action or other proceeding in any court of law or equity, arbitration tribunal, or administrative or other forum, foreign or domestic, asserting the Released Plaintiffs' Claims (including without limitation, Unknown Claims) against any and all of the Released Defendant Parties, whether or not I (we) share in the Net Settlement Fund, all as defined herein and in the Notice and Stipulation.

2. I (we) have read and understand the contents of the Notice, the Plan of Allocation, and this Proof of Claim, including the releases provided for in the Stipulation and the terms of the Plan of Allocation.

3. I (we) am (are) a member of the Settlement Class, as defined in the Notice, and am (are) not excluded by definition from the Settlement Class as set forth in the Notice.

4. I (we) have not submitted a request for exclusion from the Settlement Class.

5. This release shall be of no force or effect unless and until the Court approves the Stipulation and it becomes effective on the Effective Date.

6. I (we) hereby warrant and represent that I (we): (a) own the Windstream common stock identified in the Proof of Claim or have authority to act on behalf of the owner; and (b) have not assigned or transferred or purported to assign or transfer, voluntarily or involuntarily, any matter or claim released pursuant to this release or any other part or portion thereof and have not submitted any other claim covering the same acquisition(s) of Windstream common stock that was either: (a) received in exchange for EarthLink common stock in connection with the Merger; or (b) purchased or otherwise acquired pursuant and/or traceable to the Offering Documents, and know of no other person having done so on my (our) behalf.

7. I (we) hereby warrant and represent that I (we) have included all requested information about all of my (our) acquisitions of Windstream common stock.

8. The number(s) shown on this form is (are) the correct SSN/TIN(s).

9. I (we) waive the right to trial by jury, to the extent it exists, and agree to the determination by the Court of the validity or amount of this Claim, and waive any right of appeal or review with respect to such determination.

10. I (we) certify that I am (we are) NOT subject to backup withholding under the provisions of Section 3406(a)(1)(C) of the Internal Revenue Code because (a) I (we) am (are) exempt from backup withholding, or (b) I (we) have not been notified by the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") that I (we) am (are) subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (c) the IRS has notified me (us) that I (we) are no longer subject to backup withholding

(NOTE: If you have been notified by the IRS that you are subject to backup withholding, you must cross out Item 10 above.)



I (we) declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing information supplied by the undersigned is true, correct, and complete and that the documents submitted with this Proof of Claim are true and correct copies of what they purport to be.

Executed this _____ day of _____ in _____
(Month/Year) (City/State/Country)

(Sign your name here)

(Sign your name here)

(Type or print your name here)

(Type or print your name here)

(Capacity of person(s) signing, e.g.,
Beneficial Purchaser or Acquirer, Executor or Administrator)

(Capacity of person(s) signing, e.g.,
Beneficial Purchaser or Acquirer, Executor or Administrator)

**ACCURATE CLAIMS PROCESSING TAKES A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF TIME.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE.**

Reminder Checklist:

1. Please sign the above release and acknowledgment. If this Proof of Claim is being made on behalf of joint claimants, then all joint claimants must sign.
2. Remember to attach copies of supporting documentation, if available.
3. Do not send original stock certificates. Attach only **copies** of acceptable supporting documentation as these documents will not be returned to you.
4. Keep a copy of your Proof of Claim and all supporting documentation for your records.
5. The Claims Administrator will acknowledge receipt of your Proof of Claim by mail, within 60 days. Your claim is not deemed filed until you receive an acknowledgement postcard. **If you do not receive an acknowledgement postcard within 60 days, please call the Claims Administrator toll-free at 1-866-967-0679.**
6. If you move after submitting this Proof of Claim, please notify the Claims Administrator of the change in your address. Otherwise you may not receive additional notices or payment.
7. Do not use red pen or highlighter on the Proof of Claim or supporting documentation. You must use black or blue ink or your claim may be deemed deficient.
8. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your claim, contact EarthLink Merger Settlement, Claims Administrator, c/o Gilardi, a Verita Global company, P.O. Box 301171, Los Angeles, CA 90030-1171, by email at info@earthlinkmergersettlement.com, or by toll-free phone at 1-866-967-0679, or you may visit www.EarthLinkMergerSettlement.com. **DO NOT** call Defendants or their counsel with questions regarding your claim.

**THIS PROOF OF CLAIM MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE OR MAILED
NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 3, 2025, ADDRESSED AS FOLLOWS:**

EarthLink Merger Settlement
Claims Administrator
c/o Gilardi, a Verita Global company
P.O. Box 301171
Los Angeles, CA 90030-1171
www.EarthLinkMergerSettlement.com

