

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

_____, Individually and On
Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

CENTURYLINK, INC., GLEN F. POST,
III, JEFFREY K. STOREY, SUNIT S.
PATEL, and INDRANEEL DEV,

Defendants.

Case No.: DRAFT

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR
VIOLATIONS OF THE FEDERAL
SECURITIES LAWS**

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Law Offices of Howard G. Smith

Plaintiff _____ (“Plaintiff”), individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, by and through his attorneys, alleges the following upon information and belief, except as to those allegations concerning Plaintiff, which are alleged upon personal knowledge. Plaintiff’s information and belief is based upon, among other things, his counsel’s investigation, which includes without limitation: (a) review and analysis of regulatory filings made by CenturyLink, Inc. (“CenturyLink” or the “Company”) with the United States (“U.S.”) Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”); (b) review and analysis of press releases and media reports issued by and disseminated by CenturyLink; and (c) review of other publicly available information concerning CenturyLink.

NATURE OF THE ACTION AND OVERVIEW

1. This is a class action on behalf of persons and entities that purchased or otherwise acquired CenturyLink securities between May 10, 2018 and March 4, 2019, inclusive (the “Class Period”), seeking to pursue remedies under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Exchange Act”).

2. CenturyLink is purportedly a facilities-based communications company that provides services including local and long-distance voice, virtual private network data network, private line, and Ethernet.

3. On November 1, 2017, the Company acquired Level 3 Communications (“Level 3”) in a cash and stock transaction.

4. On February 13, 2019, in connection with its fourth quarter 2018 financial results, the Company announced that it would reduce its annual dividend to \$1.00 per share from \$2.16 per share..

5. On this news, the Company’s share price fell \$1.92, or more than 13%, to close at \$12.78 per share on February 14, 2019, on unusually heavy trading volume.

6. On March 4, 2019, the Company disclosed that it had “identified material weaknesses in internal controls over the Company’s revenue recording processes and procedures for measuring the fair value of assets and liabilities assumed in connection with the Level 3 acquisition.”

7. On this news, the Company's share price fell \$0.82, or more than 6%, to close at \$12.15 per share on March 4, 2019, on unusually heavy trading volume.

8. Throughout the Class Period, Defendants made materially false and/or misleading statements, as well as failed to disclose material adverse facts about the Company's business, operations, and prospects. Specifically, Defendants failed to disclose to investors: (1) that the accounting treatment for the Company's acquisition of Level 3 was inaccurate; (2) that, as a result, the Company had overstated goodwill for certain periods; (3) that the Company had improperly recognized revenue in certain periods; (4) that the required corrections would materially impact financial statements; (5) that there was a material weakness in the Company's internal controls over financial reporting; and (6) that, as a result of the foregoing, Defendants' positive statements about the Company's business, operations, and prospects were materially misleading and/or lacked a reasonable basis.

9. As a result of Defendants' wrongful acts and omissions, and the precipitous decline in the market value of the Company's securities, Plaintiff and other Class members have suffered significant losses and damages.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

10. The claims asserted herein arise under Sections 10(b) and 20(a) of the Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. §§ 78j(b) and 78t(a)) and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder by the SEC (17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5).

11. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and Section 27 of the Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. § 78aa).

12. Venue is proper in this Judicial District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and Section 27 of the Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. § 78aa(c)). Substantial acts in furtherance of the alleged fraud or the effects of the fraud have occurred in this Judicial District. Many of the acts charged herein, including the dissemination of materially false and/or misleading information, occurred in substantial part in this Judicial District. In addition, the Company's principal executive offices are located in this district.

13. In connection with the acts, transactions, and conduct alleged herein, Defendants

directly and indirectly used the means and instrumentalities of interstate commerce, including the United States mail, interstate telephone communications, and the facilities of a national securities exchange.

PARTIES

14. Plaintiff _____, as set forth in the accompanying certification, incorporated by reference herein, purchased CenturyLink securities during the Class Period, and suffered damages as a result of the federal securities law violations and false and/or misleading statements and/or material omissions alleged herein.

15. Defendant CenturyLink is incorporated under the laws of Delaware with its principal executive offices located in Monroe, Louisiana. CenturyLink's common stock trades on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") under the symbol "CTL."

16. Defendant Glen F. Post III ("Post") was the Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") of the Company from 1992 to May 2018.

17. Defendant Jeffrey K. Storey ("Storey") has been the CEO of the Company since May 2018.

18. Defendant Sunit S. Patel ("Patel") was the Chief Financial Officer ("CFO") of the Company from November 2017 to September 28, 2018.

19. Defendant Indraneel Dev ("Dev") was the interim CFO from September 29, 2018 to November 6, 2018 and has been the CFO since November 6, 2018.

20. Defendants Post, Storey, Patel, and Dev, (collectively the "Individual Defendants"), because of their positions with the Company, possessed the power and authority to control the contents of the Company's reports to the SEC, press releases and presentations to securities analysts, money and portfolio managers and institutional investors, *i.e.*, the market. The Individual Defendants were provided with copies of the Company's reports and press releases alleged herein to be misleading prior to, or shortly after, their issuance and had the ability and opportunity to prevent their issuance or cause them to be corrected. Because of their positions and access to material non-public information available to them, the Individual Defendants knew that the adverse facts specified herein had not been disclosed to, and were

being concealed from, the public, and that the positive representations which were being made were then materially false and/or misleading. The Individual Defendants are liable for the false statements pleaded herein.

SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS

Background

21. CenturyLink is purportedly a facilities-based communications company that provides services including local and long-distance voice, virtual private network data network, private line, and Ethernet.

22. On November 1, 2017, the Company acquired Level 3 Communications in a cash and stock transaction.

Materially False and Misleading Statements Issued During the Class Period

23. The Class Period begins on May 10, 2018. On that day, the Company filed its quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the period ended March 31, 2018 (the "1Q18 10-Q"). Therein, the Company reported \$5.94 billion revenue and \$115 million net income.

24. In the 1Q18 10-Q, the Company reported that, as to the Level 3 acquisition:

We have recognized the assets and liabilities of Level 3 based on CenturyLink's preliminary estimates of the fair value of the acquired tangible and intangible assets and assumed liabilities of Level 3 as of November 1, 2017, the consummation date of the acquisition, with the excess aggregate consideration recorded as goodwill. The final determination of the allocation of the aggregate consideration paid by CenturyLink in the combination will be based on the fair value of such assets and liabilities as of the acquisition date with any excess aggregate consideration to be recorded as goodwill. The estimation of such fair values and the estimation of lives of depreciable tangible assets and amortizable intangible assets require significant judgment. As such, we have not completed our valuation analysis and calculations in sufficient detail necessary to arrive at the final estimates of the fair value of Level 3's assets acquired and liabilities assumed, along with the related allocation to goodwill. The fair values of certain tangible assets, intangible assets, certain liabilities and residual goodwill are the most significant areas not yet finalized and therefore are subject to change. We expect to complete our final fair value determinations prior to the anniversary date of the acquisition. Our final fair value determinations may be significantly different than those reflected in our consolidated financial statements at March 31, 2018.

* * *

Based solely on our preliminary estimates through March 31, 2018, the aggregate consideration exceeds the aggregate estimated fair value of the acquired assets and assumed liabilities by \$11.141 billion, which we have recognized as goodwill. The goodwill is attributable to strategic benefits, including enhanced financial and operational scale, market diversification and leveraged combined networks that we expect to realize. None of the goodwill associated with this acquisition is deductible for income tax purposes.

25. The 1Q18 10-Q also stated that, after conducting an evaluation, management had concluded that the Company's controls and procedures were effective and that management would "continue to evaluate the Company's internal controls over financial reporting as it continues the integration of Level 3."

26. On August 9, 2018, the Company filed its quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2018 (the "2Q18 10-Q"). Therein, the Company reported \$5.9 billion revenue, \$292 million net income, and recognized \$11.1 billion as goodwill from the Level 3 acquisition based on an evaluation as described in ¶24.

27. The Company also stated in the 2Q18 10-Q that, after conducting an evaluation, management had concluded that the Company's controls and procedures were effective and that management would "continue to evaluate the Company's internal controls over financial reporting as it continues the integration of Level 3."

28. On November 9, 2018, the Company filed its quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the period ended September 30, 2018 (the "3Q18 10-Q"). Therein, the Company reported \$5.81 billion revenue, \$272 million net income, and recognized \$11.2 billion as goodwill from the Level 3 acquisition based on an evaluation as described in ¶24.

29. The Company also stated in the 3Q18 10-Q that, after conducting an evaluation, management had concluded that the Company's controls and procedures were effective and that management would "continue to evaluate [the Company's] internal controls over financial reporting as [it] continue[s] the integration of Level 3."

30. The above statements identified in ¶¶23-29 were materially false and/or misleading, and failed to disclose material adverse facts about the Company's business,

operations, and prospects. Specifically, Defendants failed to disclose to investors: (1) that the accounting treatment for the Company's acquisition of Level 3 was inaccurate; (2) that, as a result, the Company had overstated goodwill for certain periods; (3) that the Company had improperly recognized revenue in certain periods; (4) that the required corrections would materially impact financial statements; (5) that there was a material weakness in the Company's internal controls over financial reporting; and (6) that, as a result of the foregoing, Defendants' positive statements about the Company's business, operations, and prospects were materially misleading and/or lacked a reasonable basis.

Disclosures at the End of the Class Period

31. On February 13, 2019, the Company announced that it would reduce its annual dividend to \$1.00 per share from \$2.16 per share. For fourth quarter 2018, the Company reported \$5.78 billion revenue and \$2.41 billion net loss.

32. On this news, the Company's share price fell \$1.92, or more than 13%, to close at \$12.78 per share on February 14, 2019, on unusually heavy trading volume.

33. On March 4, 2019, the Company disclosed that it had "identified material weaknesses in internal controls over the Company's revenue recording processes and procedures for measuring the fair value of assets and liabilities assumed in connection with the Level 3 acquisition." In a Notification of Late Filing on Form 12b-25, the Company stated, in relevant part:

The Company has determined that it is unable to file its Form 10-K within the prescribed time period provided by the applicable rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission without unreasonable effort and expense.

The principal reason for the delay is that recently identified material weaknesses in internal controls over the Company's revenue recording processes and the procedures for measuring fair value of assets and liabilities assumed in connection with the Level 3 Communications, Inc. acquisition have created the need to conduct additional review and testing with respect to those processes prior to finalizing the assessment and the audits of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2018 and of the Company's financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2018. Notwithstanding the Company's inability to file the Form 10-K within the prescribed time period, the Company currently does not expect any material changes to the financial results disclosed in the Company's earnings release dated February 13, 2019.

The Company is working diligently along with its external auditor to complete its work processes and audit and expects to file the Form 10-K within the grace period prescribed by Rule 12b-25 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

34. On this news, the Company's share price fell \$0.82, or more than 6%, to close at \$12.15 per share on March 4, 2019, on unusually heavy trading volume.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

35. Plaintiff brings this action as a class action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a) and (b)(3) on behalf of a class, consisting of all persons and entities that purchased or otherwise acquired CenturyLink securities between May 10, 2018 and March 4, 2019, inclusive, and who were damaged thereby (the "Class"). Excluded from the Class are Defendants, the officers and directors of the Company, at all relevant times, members of their immediate families and their legal representatives, heirs, successors, or assigns, and any entity in which Defendants have or had a controlling interest.

36. The members of the Class are so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. Throughout the Class Period, CenturyLink's common shares actively traded on the NYSE. While the exact number of Class members is unknown to Plaintiff at this time and can only be ascertained through appropriate discovery, Plaintiff believes that there are at least hundreds or thousands of members in the proposed Class. Millions of CenturyLink common stock were traded publicly during the Class Period on the NYSE. Record owners and other members of the Class may be identified from records maintained by CenturyLink or its transfer agent and may be notified of the pendency of this action by mail, using the form of notice similar to that customarily used in securities class actions.

37. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the members of the Class as all members of the Class are similarly affected by Defendants' wrongful conduct in violation of federal law that is complained of herein.

38. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the members of the Class and has retained counsel competent and experienced in class and securities litigation.

39. Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Class and

predominate over any questions solely affecting individual members of the Class. Among the questions of law and fact common to the Class are:

(a) whether the federal securities laws were violated by Defendants' acts as alleged herein;

(b) whether statements made by Defendants to the investing public during the Class Period omitted and/or misrepresented material facts about the business, operations, and prospects of CenturyLink; and

(c) to what extent the members of the Class have sustained damages and the proper measure of damages.

40. A class action is superior to all other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy since joinder of all members is impracticable. Furthermore, as the damages suffered by individual Class members may be relatively small, the expense and burden of individual litigation makes it impossible for members of the Class to individually redress the wrongs done to them. There will be no difficulty in the management of this action as a class action.

UNDISCLOSED ADVERSE FACTS

41. The market for CenturyLink's securities was open, well-developed and efficient at all relevant times. As a result of these materially false and/or misleading statements, and/or failures to disclose, CenturyLink's securities traded at artificially inflated prices during the Class Period. Plaintiff and other members of the Class purchased or otherwise acquired CenturyLink's securities relying upon the integrity of the market price of the Company's securities and market information relating to CenturyLink, and have been damaged thereby.

42. During the Class Period, Defendants materially misled the investing public, thereby inflating the price of CenturyLink's securities, by publicly issuing false and/or misleading statements and/or omitting to disclose material facts necessary to make Defendants' statements, as set forth herein, not false and/or misleading. The statements and omissions were materially false and/or misleading because they failed to disclose material adverse information

and/or misrepresented the truth about CenturyLink's business, operations, and prospects as alleged herein.

43. At all relevant times, the material misrepresentations and omissions particularized in this Complaint directly or proximately caused or were a substantial contributing cause of the damages sustained by Plaintiff and other members of the Class. As described herein, during the Class Period, Defendants made or caused to be made a series of materially false and/or misleading statements about CenturyLink's financial well-being and prospects. These material misstatements and/or omissions had the cause and effect of creating in the market an unrealistically positive assessment of the Company and its financial well-being and prospects, thus causing the Company's securities to be overvalued and artificially inflated at all relevant times. Defendants' materially false and/or misleading statements during the Class Period resulted in Plaintiff and other members of the Class purchasing the Company's securities at artificially inflated prices, thus causing the damages complained of herein when the truth was revealed.

LOSS CAUSATION

44. Defendants' wrongful conduct, as alleged herein, directly and proximately caused the economic loss suffered by Plaintiff and the Class.

45. During the Class Period, Plaintiff and the Class purchased CenturyLink's securities at artificially inflated prices and were damaged thereby. The price of the Company's securities significantly declined when the misrepresentations made to the market, and/or the information alleged herein to have been concealed from the market, and/or the effects thereof, were revealed, causing investors' losses.

SCIENTER ALLEGATIONS

46. As alleged herein, Defendants acted with scienter since Defendants knew that the public documents and statements issued or disseminated in the name of the Company were materially false and/or misleading; knew that such statements or documents would be issued or disseminated to the investing public; and knowingly and substantially participated or acquiesced in the issuance or dissemination of such statements or documents as primary violations of the

federal securities laws. As set forth elsewhere herein in detail, the Individual Defendants, by virtue of their receipt of information reflecting the true facts regarding CenturyLink, their control over, and/or receipt and/or modification of CenturyLink's allegedly materially misleading misstatements and/or their associations with the Company which made them privy to confidential proprietary information concerning CenturyLink, participated in the fraudulent scheme alleged herein.

**APPLICABILITY OF PRESUMPTION OF RELIANCE
(FRAUD-ON-THE-MARKET DOCTRINE)**

47. The market for CenturyLink's securities was open, well-developed and efficient at all relevant times. As a result of the materially false and/or misleading statements and/or failures to disclose, CenturyLink's securities traded at artificially inflated prices during the Class Period. On August 21, 2018, the Company's share price closed at a Class Period high of \$23.98 per share. Plaintiff and other members of the Class purchased or otherwise acquired the Company's securities relying upon the integrity of the market price of CenturyLink's securities and market information relating to CenturyLink, and have been damaged thereby.

48. During the Class Period, the artificial inflation of CenturyLink's shares was caused by the material misrepresentations and/or omissions particularized in this Complaint causing the damages sustained by Plaintiff and other members of the Class. As described herein, during the Class Period, Defendants made or caused to be made a series of materially false and/or misleading statements about CenturyLink's business, prospects, and operations. These material misstatements and/or omissions created an unrealistically positive assessment of CenturyLink and its business, operations, and prospects, thus causing the price of the Company's securities to be artificially inflated at all relevant times, and when disclosed, negatively affected the value of the Company shares. Defendants' materially false and/or misleading statements during the Class Period resulted in Plaintiff and other members of the Class purchasing the Company's securities at such artificially inflated prices, and each of them has been damaged as a result.

49. At all relevant times, the market for CenturyLink's securities was an efficient

market for the following reasons, among others:

(a) CenturyLink shares met the requirements for listing, and was listed and actively traded on the NYSE, a highly efficient and automated market;

(b) As a regulated issuer, CenturyLink filed periodic public reports with the SEC and/or the NYSE;

(c) CenturyLink regularly communicated with public investors via established market communication mechanisms, including through regular dissemination of press releases on the national circuits of major newswire services and through other wide-ranging public disclosures, such as communications with the financial press and other similar reporting services; and/or

(d) CenturyLink was followed by securities analysts employed by brokerage firms who wrote reports about the Company, and these reports were distributed to the sales force and certain customers of their respective brokerage firms. Each of these reports was publicly available and entered the public marketplace.

50. As a result of the foregoing, the market for CenturyLink's securities promptly digested current information regarding CenturyLink from all publicly available sources and reflected such information in CenturyLink's share price. Under these circumstances, all purchasers of CenturyLink's securities during the Class Period suffered similar injury through their purchase of CenturyLink's securities at artificially inflated prices and a presumption of reliance applies.

51. A Class-wide presumption of reliance is also appropriate in this action under the Supreme Court's holding in *Affiliated Ute Citizens of Utah v. United States*, 406 U.S. 128 (1972), because the Class's claims are, in large part, grounded on Defendants' material misstatements and/or omissions. Because this action involves Defendants' failure to disclose material adverse information regarding the Company's business operations and financial prospects—information that Defendants were obligated to disclose—positive proof of reliance is not a prerequisite to recovery. All that is necessary is that the facts withheld be material in the sense that a reasonable investor might have considered them important in making investment decisions. Given the importance of the Class Period material misstatements and omissions set

forth above, that requirement is satisfied here.

NO SAFE HARBOR

52. The statutory safe harbor provided for forward-looking statements under certain circumstances does not apply to any of the allegedly false statements pleaded in this Complaint. The statements alleged to be false and misleading herein all relate to then-existing facts and conditions. In addition, to the extent certain of the statements alleged to be false may be characterized as forward looking, they were not identified as “forward-looking statements” when made and there were no meaningful cautionary statements identifying important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in the purportedly forward-looking statements. In the alternative, to the extent that the statutory safe harbor is determined to apply to any forward-looking statements pleaded herein, Defendants are liable for those false forward-looking statements because at the time each of those forward-looking statements was made, the speaker had actual knowledge that the forward-looking statement was materially false or misleading, and/or the forward-looking statement was authorized or approved by an executive officer of CenturyLink who knew that the statement was false when made.

FIRST CLAIM **Violation of Section 10(b) of The Exchange Act and** **Rule 10b-5 Promulgated Thereunder** **Against All Defendants**

53. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation contained above as if fully set forth herein.

54. During the Class Period, Defendants carried out a plan, scheme and course of conduct which was intended to and, throughout the Class Period, did: (i) deceive the investing public, including Plaintiff and other Class members, as alleged herein; and (ii) cause Plaintiff and other members of the Class to purchase CenturyLink’s securities at artificially inflated prices. In furtherance of this unlawful scheme, plan and course of conduct, Defendants, and each defendant, took the actions set forth herein.

55. Defendants (i) employed devices, schemes, and artifices to defraud; (ii) made untrue statements of material fact and/or omitted to state material facts necessary to make the

statements not misleading; and (iii) engaged in acts, practices, and a course of business which operated as a fraud and deceit upon the purchasers of the Company's securities in an effort to maintain artificially high market prices for CenturyLink's securities in violation of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5. All Defendants are sued either as primary participants in the wrongful and illegal conduct charged herein or as controlling persons as alleged below.

56. Defendants, individually and in concert, directly and indirectly, by the use, means or instrumentalities of interstate commerce and/or of the mails, engaged and participated in a continuous course of conduct to conceal adverse material information about CenturyLink's financial well-being and prospects, as specified herein.

57. Defendants employed devices, schemes and artifices to defraud, while in possession of material adverse non-public information and engaged in acts, practices, and a course of conduct as alleged herein in an effort to assure investors of CenturyLink's value and performance and continued substantial growth, which included the making of, or the participation in the making of, untrue statements of material facts and/or omitting to state material facts necessary in order to make the statements made about CenturyLink and its business operations and future prospects in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading, as set forth more particularly herein, and engaged in transactions, practices and a course of business which operated as a fraud and deceit upon the purchasers of the Company's securities during the Class Period.

58. Each of the Individual Defendants' primary liability and controlling person liability arises from the following facts: (i) the Individual Defendants were high-level executives and/or directors at the Company during the Class Period and members of the Company's management team or had control thereof; (ii) each of these defendants, by virtue of their responsibilities and activities as a senior officer and/or director of the Company, was privy to and participated in the creation, development and reporting of the Company's internal budgets, plans, projections and/or reports; (iii) each of these defendants enjoyed significant personal contact and familiarity with the other defendants and was advised of, and had access to, other members of the Company's management team, internal reports and other data and information about the

Company's finances, operations, and sales at all relevant times; and (iv) each of these defendants was aware of the Company's dissemination of information to the investing public which they knew and/or recklessly disregarded was materially false and misleading.

59. Defendants had actual knowledge of the misrepresentations and/or omissions of material facts set forth herein, or acted with reckless disregard for the truth in that they failed to ascertain and to disclose such facts, even though such facts were available to them. Such defendants' material misrepresentations and/or omissions were done knowingly or recklessly and for the purpose and effect of concealing CenturyLink's financial well-being and prospects from the investing public and supporting the artificially inflated price of its securities. As demonstrated by Defendants' overstatements and/or misstatements of the Company's business, operations, financial well-being, and prospects throughout the Class Period, Defendants, if they did not have actual knowledge of the misrepresentations and/or omissions alleged, were reckless in failing to obtain such knowledge by deliberately refraining from taking those steps necessary to discover whether those statements were false or misleading.

60. As a result of the dissemination of the materially false and/or misleading information and/or failure to disclose material facts, as set forth above, the market price of CenturyLink's securities was artificially inflated during the Class Period. In ignorance of the fact that market prices of the Company's securities were artificially inflated, and relying directly or indirectly on the false and misleading statements made by Defendants, or upon the integrity of the market in which the securities trades, and/or in the absence of material adverse information that was known to or recklessly disregarded by Defendants, but not disclosed in public statements by Defendants during the Class Period, Plaintiff and the other members of the Class acquired CenturyLink's securities during the Class Period at artificially high prices and were damaged thereby.

61. At the time of said misrepresentations and/or omissions, Plaintiff and other members of the Class were ignorant of their falsity, and believed them to be true. Had Plaintiff and the other members of the Class and the marketplace known the truth regarding the problems that CenturyLink was experiencing, which were not disclosed by Defendants, Plaintiff and other

members of the Class would not have purchased or otherwise acquired their CenturyLink securities, or, if they had acquired such securities during the Class Period, they would not have done so at the artificially inflated prices which they paid.

62. By virtue of the foregoing, Defendants violated Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder.

63. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' wrongful conduct, Plaintiff and the other members of the Class suffered damages in connection with their respective purchases and sales of the Company's securities during the Class Period.

SECOND CLAIM
Violation of Section 20(a) of The Exchange Act
Against the Individual Defendants

64. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation contained above as if fully set forth herein.

65. Individual Defendants acted as controlling persons of CenturyLink within the meaning of Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act as alleged herein. By virtue of their high-level positions and their ownership and contractual rights, participation in, and/or awareness of the Company's operations and intimate knowledge of the false financial statements filed by the Company with the SEC and disseminated to the investing public, Individual Defendants had the power to influence and control and did influence and control, directly or indirectly, the decision-making of the Company, including the content and dissemination of the various statements which Plaintiff contends are false and misleading. Individual Defendants were provided with or had unlimited access to copies of the Company's reports, press releases, public filings, and other statements alleged by Plaintiff to be misleading prior to and/or shortly after these statements were issued and had the ability to prevent the issuance of the statements or cause the statements to be corrected.

66. In particular, Individual Defendants had direct and supervisory involvement in the day-to-day operations of the Company and, therefore, had the power to control or influence the particular transactions giving rise to the securities violations as alleged herein, and exercised the same.

67. As set forth above, CenturyLink and Individual Defendants each violated Section 10(b) and Rule 10b-5 by their acts and omissions as alleged in this Complaint. By virtue of their position as controlling persons, Individual Defendants are liable pursuant to Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' wrongful conduct, Plaintiff and other members of the Class suffered damages in connection with their purchases of the Company's securities during the Class Period.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief and judgment, as follows:

(a) Determining that this action is a proper class action under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure;

(b) Awarding compensatory damages in favor of Plaintiff and the other Class members against all defendants, jointly and severally, for all damages sustained as a result of Defendants' wrongdoing, in an amount to be proven at trial, including interest thereon;

(c) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class their reasonable costs and expenses incurred in this action, including counsel fees and expert fees; and

(d) Such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury.

Dated: _____, 2019

By: *Draft*

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