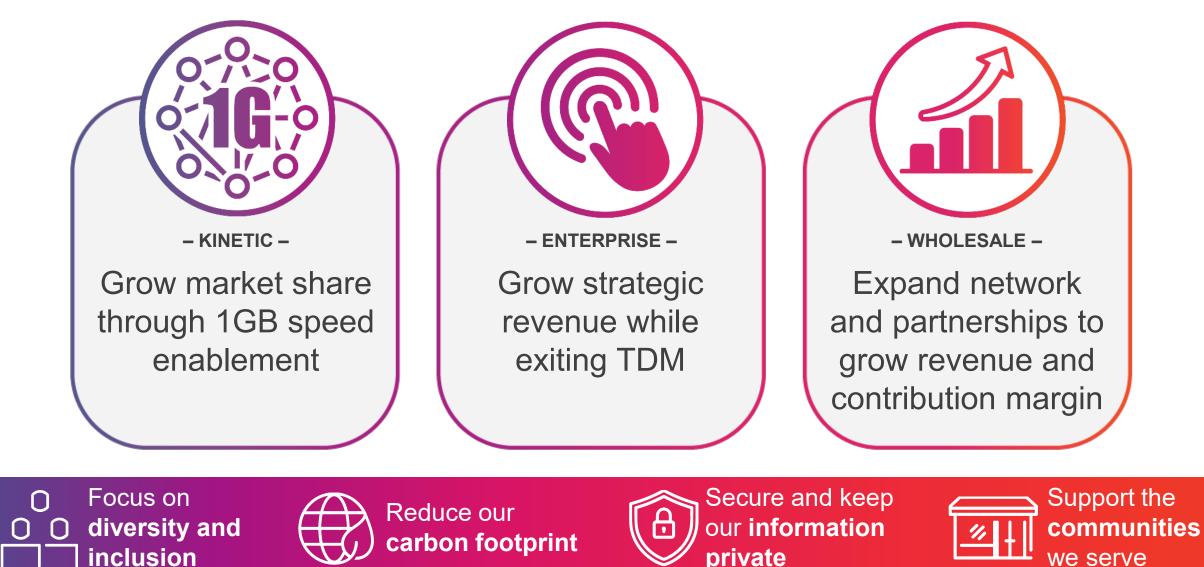


2Q23 CEO Presentation August 10, 2023

# **Second Quarter 2023 Highlights**

<ul> <li>Strong Strategic Revenue Are 36% of total Enterprise services revenue(1); now over 480 million on an annualized basis; up 14% y-o-y.</li> <li>Wholesale service revenue up 8% y-o-y.</li> <li>Still \$774 million in annualized interconnection expense for DM is years with \$401 million relating to TDM services.</li> </ul>	by windstream	<ul> <li>Strong Consumer Metrics</li> <li>4.6% Kinetic consumer service revenue growth year-over-year; 1.1% sequentially</li> <li>Strong fiber additions of 24K in 2Q</li> <li>High-speed Internet ARPU of \$87.41 up 7% y-o-y and 2% sequentially</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Fiber Build Momentum Continues</li> <li>43K new premises added in 2Q</li> <li>1.5 million total premises now have access to FTTH services</li> <li>31% coverage of consumer households was achieved by quarter end</li> </ul>
	ENTERPRISE & WHOLESALE	<ul> <li>Strategic Services revenue are 36% of total Enterprise services revenue<sup>(1)</sup>; now over \$480 million on an annualized basis; up 14% y-o-y</li> <li>Wholesale service revenue up 8% y-o-y</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Total interconnection expense fell by 17% y-o-y on an annualized basis; legacy-TDM related expenses fell by 24% y-o-y</li> <li>Still \$774 million in annualized interconnection expense with \$401 million relating to TDM</li> </ul>

# **2023 Company Priorities**



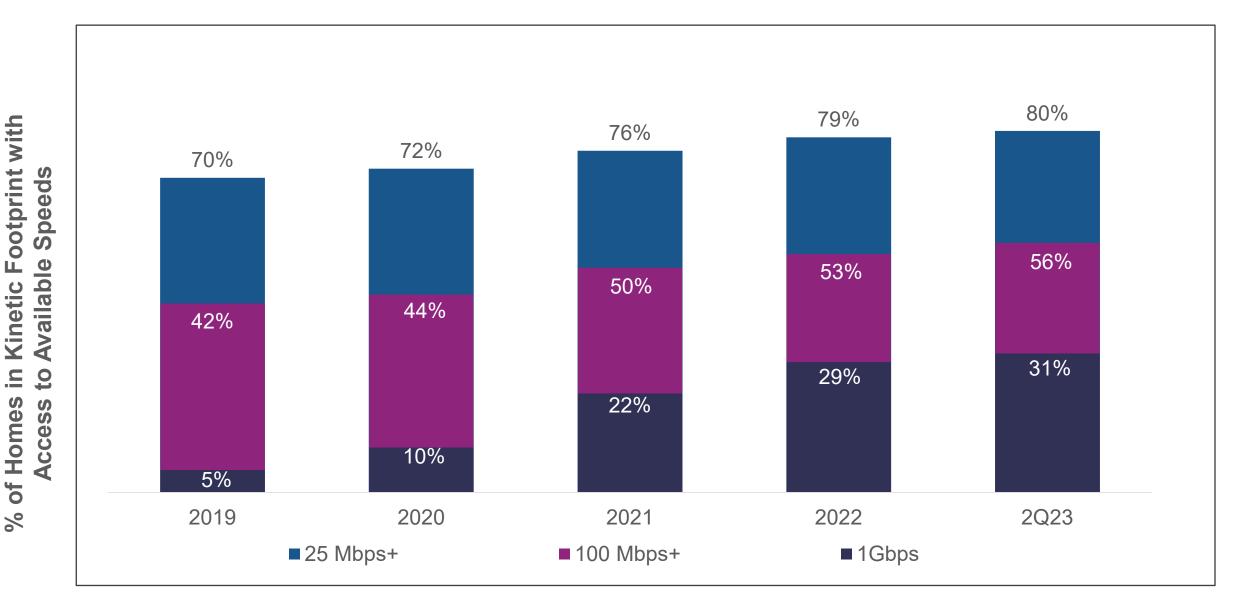
## **Fiber Broadband Expansion Acceleration**

## 43K 1 Gbps Premises Constructed in 2Q23



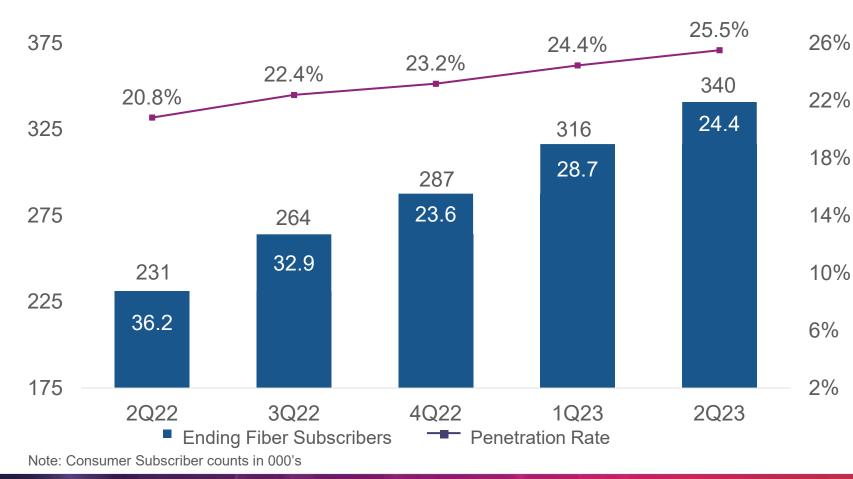
1 Gbps Premises Passed (in 000's)

## **Enhanced Speeds Across All Speed Tiers**



## Fiber Broadband Adds Continue to Accelerate

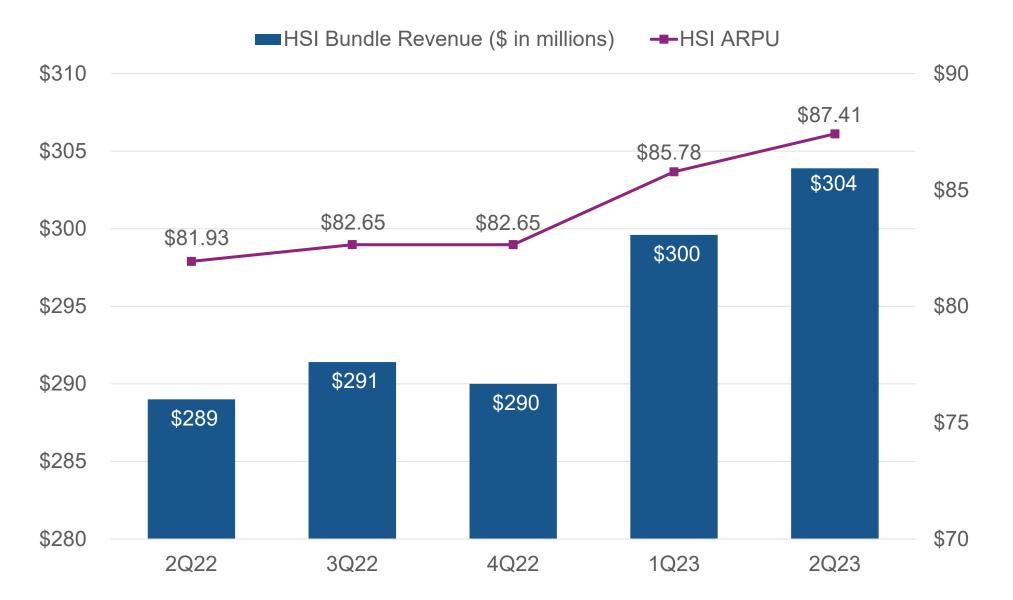
Consumer Fiber Subscription Growth Shows Strong Adoption of New 1 Gbps Facilities



Ended 2Q with **340K** Consumers on 1G capable facilities, up 24K from 1Q23

25.5% Penetration

# **Strong ARPU Continues to Drive Revenue Trends**



## **Kinetic Launches 8 Gig Internet**

## Kinetic is now the largest 8 Gig Internet Provider, serving more markets than any other provider



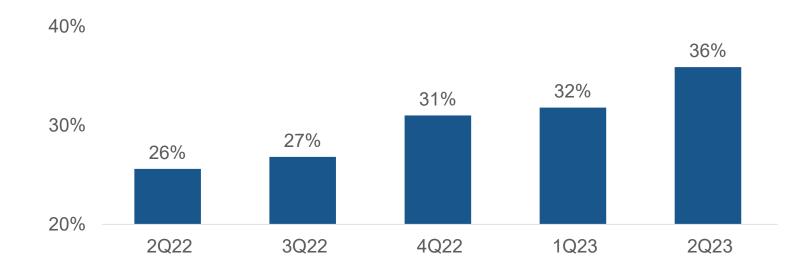
- Ultra-fast 8 Gig network now available to 400,000 households across an 18-state footprint.
- Kinetic 8 Gig gives customers next-level internet speeds and bandwidth, powering their connected lives and providing reliable connection
- Customers who upgrade to Kinetic's 8-gig fiber internet can download and upload at the same speed at up to 8,000 Mbps, which is around 100 times faster than the U.S. average upload speed
- Kinetic also now increases Wi-Fi coverage throughout the home with its Whole Home Wi-Fi Set Up, a service that creates a seamless, powerful Wi-Fi network tested and verified by Kinetic technicians to reach every room.
- Kinetic will continue to expand its multi-Gig offerings into more markets in the future.

# **Enterprise Strategic Revenue Growth Continues**

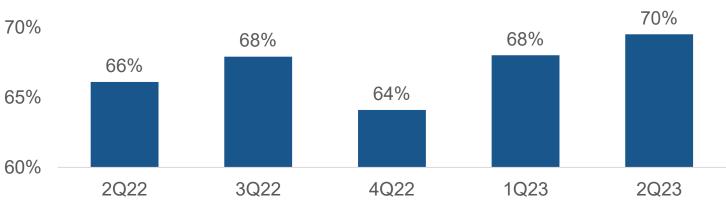
## WINDSTREAM ENTERPRISE

- Cloud services, increasing bandwidth demand & software enabled networks fueling Strategic Revenue growth
- 2Q23 Annualized Strategic Product Revenue is over \$480M and growing 14% y-o-y; Total Strategic Revenues are now 36% of Service Revenues <sup>(1)</sup>
- Strategic sales 70% of total Enterprise sales in quarter

## **Strategic Revenue % of Total Service Revenue**



## **Strategic Sales as % of Total Sales**



(1) Excludes Switched access and End user surcharges

## Windstream Enterprise Product Developments

PRESS RELEASE	-			
	DD	EGG.	DEL	LVCL
	FIN	LOO		LASL

0	<u> </u>

Windstream Enterprise Launches LAN Services with Fortinet Technology for Enhanced Security, Business Intelligence and End-User Experiences

New services deliver seamless network integration that helps improve IT agility, innovation and growth across any organization PRESS RELEASE



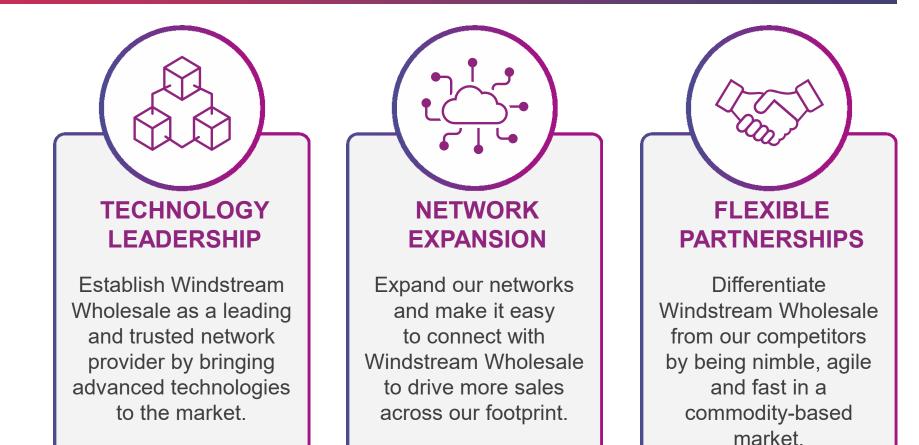
Windstream Enterprise Launches Comprehensive IT Managed Services Portfolio to Inaugurate its Strategic Alliances Program

New strategic alliance with ATSG delivers managed services to power the digital workplace, infrastructure management and cybersecurity needs of modern-day enterprises

## Windstream Wholesale Continues To Deliver Strong Growth

**2023 goals** to remain focused on technology leadership, network expansion and flexible partnerships

- 8% service revenue growth y-o-y driven by continued strong demand from other telco and cable providers as well as content providers
- Contribution Margin growth of 16% y-o-y



# Windstream Wholesale Continues To Pace Industry



windstream wholesale Multi-400G Wave Delivery in 16 Business Days! fast flexible

- Windstream Wholesale leads the way in next generation 400G - introduced the industry's first flexible, regional 400G wave services, coined "Regional Rapid Fiber"
- Regional Rapid Fiber with ZR+ technology 400G wave service provides customers the freedom to add circuits for flexibility and redundancy within multiple regional sites across Windstream's ICON network

- Windstream Wholesale sets a new standard for speed and efficiency with multi-400G wave delivery in 16 business days
- Windstream Wholesale is not only a technology leader with our next generation 400G service but continues to demonstrate a strong commitment to providing fast and flexible solutions.

## **Significant Interconnection Cost Reductions**

## **TDM Retirement Accelerates Cost Reduction and Improves Customer Experience**

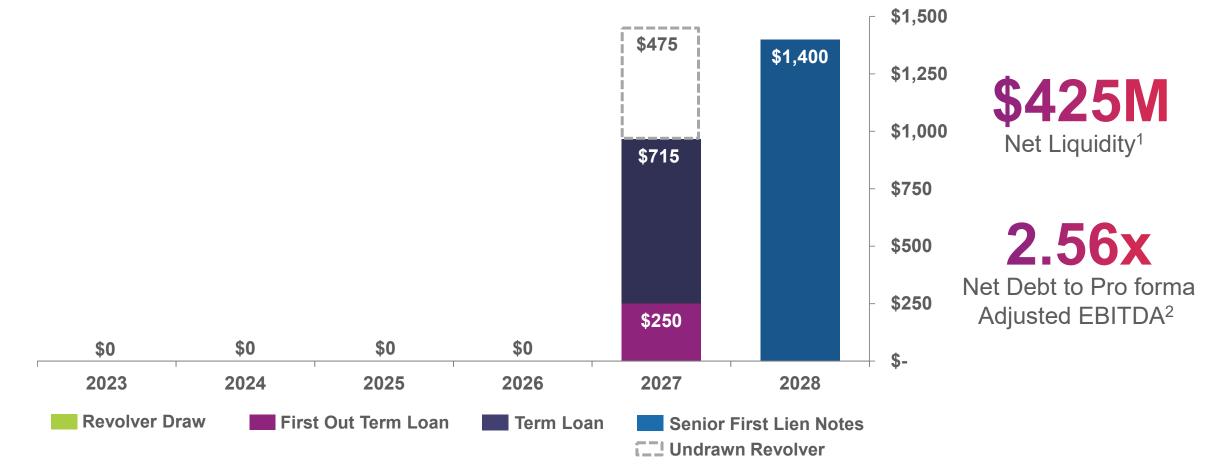
## Interconnection Expenses (in millions)

	2	2Q22		Q23	YoY		
	Ann	ualized	Ann	ualized	Change %		
TDM	\$	194	\$	106	(45%)		
IP/Ethernet	·	277	·	256	(7%)		
Last Mile Access	\$	470	\$	362	(23%)		
TDM	\$	69	\$	50	(27%)		
IP/Ethernet		34		29	(14%)		
Network Access	\$	103	\$	80	(23%)		
Voice/Other	\$	17	\$	14	(19%)		
otal Interconnect	\$	590	\$	456	(23%)		
Network Real Estate	\$	39	\$	32	(18%)		
Colocation		43		29	(31%)		
Enterprise Network Facilities Expense	\$	81	\$	61	(25%)		
Network Real Estate	\$	155	\$	155	(0%)		
Colocation		28		28	0%		
Kinetic & Wholesale Network Facilities Expense	\$	184	\$	184	(0%)		
Fiber Expense	\$	77	\$	74	(4%)		
otal Network Facilities & Fiber Expense	\$	342	\$	318	(7%)		
otal Interconnect, Network Facilities & Fiber Expense	\$	933	\$	774	(17%)		

- 2Q23 annualized run-rate of \$774M in interconnection, network facility and fiber expenses; annualized decline of 17%
- \$401 million of Legacy TDM-related expense including Network Facility expense; annualized decline of 24%
- Continued execution of multi-year program to migrate legacy TDM customers to newer technologies, moving from circuit-level to marketlevel optimization
- The focus on market-level TDM removal will enable greater reductions in network real estate and colocation expenses

# **Strong Balance Sheet with No Near-Term Maturities**

## **Debt Maturity as of June 30, 2023**



<sup>1</sup> Net Liquidity calculation includes \$500 million revolver capacity through September 2024

<sup>2</sup> Pro forma Adjusted EBITDA is Adjusted EBITDA as if Uniti's fourth quarter 2021 prepayment of all quarterly amounts due in 2022 were made as scheduled

Note: Available capacity under credit facility excludes outstanding letters of credit of \$104.3 million of which \$78.4 million was issued to Universal Service Administrative Company as a condition for Windstream receiving RDOF funding The amended senior secured revolving credit facility will have \$500 million of capacity through September 21, 2024, and \$475 million of capacity through January 23, 2027

# **OUR MISSION** CONNECT PEOPLE AND EMPOWER BUSINESS IN A WORLD OF INFINITE POSSIBILITIES

# **OUR VISION**

TO PROVIDE INNOVATIVE SOFTWARE AND NETWORK SOLUTIONS WHILE CONSISTENTLY DELIVERING AN AMAZING CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

# **ONE GOAL: GROWTH!**

## WIN Fully Owns and Operates Substantial Assets

Kinetic Fully Owned a	Kinetic Fully Owned and Operated Metrics						
Broadband Consumers <sup>(1)</sup>	Fiber Broadband	Fiber Route Miles <sup>(1)</sup>					
228K	Consumers <sup>(1)</sup> 107K	88K					
(19.8%)	(31.6%)	(75.2%)					
Fiber Households Today <sup>(1)</sup>	Fiber Households – Build Plan <sup>(1)</sup>	Windstream Owns 100GB POPs <sup>(1)</sup>					
402K	655K	1,364					
(30.1%)	(32.6%)	(100.0%)					
Total Consumer Revenues <sup>(2)</sup>	Kinetic Owned Assets <sup>(3)</sup>	E&W Owned Assets <sup>(3)</sup>					
\$219M	\$2.5B	<b>\$900M</b>					

(1) Metric represents number and percentage of Windstream total not associated or encumbered by Uniti Master Lease Agreements as of June 30, 2023.

(2) Consumer Revenues for FY 2022 that are not within in-footprint ILEC markets governed by Uniti ILEC Master Lease Agreement.

(3) Kinetic and E&W Owned Assets represent net PP&E, excluding CWIP, as of December 31, 2022, for Windstream owned assets.



# **Uniti Lease Summary**

## Favorable Cash Payments To Uniti Through Initial Term With Significant Step Down Of Rent At Renewal

Initial Term: Uniti settlement and GCI payments result in lower cash transferred to Uniti through initial term than stated rent

NPV of remaining MLA initial term cash flows @ 9% is ~\$2.3B<sup>(1)</sup> or 3.3x stated gross rent

**Renewal Rent:** Renewal rent is calculated through set formula in Exhibit E of Master Lease Agreements (MLAs), the same formula used to calculate the \$650M annual rent in the initial term starting 2015

- Original 2015 Fair Market Value (FMV) of Leased Assets was ~\$7.5B, of which ~\$4B or ~54% was Copper
- Majority of \$4B copper network is being replaced with fiber through \$1.75B GCI Program
- Over 50% of CLEC MLA assets transferred to Uniti as part of the settlement will be removed from CLEC MLA at renewal
- In addition, Uniti will be responsible for pro rata share of CLEC network maintenance and operating costs in renewal periods. In total, adjustments expected to make current \$120 million CLEC MLA payment a net cash inflow to Windstream at renewal
- Results in lower FMV in 2030 and leased asset base with longer useful life resulting in less depreciation and lower rent payments

Original	(-) Copper	(+) GCI	(-) CLEC	2030E
2015 FMV	Network	Program	Removed	FMV
~\$7.5B	(~\$3.5B)	\$1.75B	(~\$0.8B)	~\$4.9B

1) 9% discount aligned to Uniti settlement payments. FY23 to FY29 cash flows discounted to 12/31/22 with 21% taxes.

#### **Uniti Lease Net Cash Transferred**

(In Millions)	For the FYE 12/31											
	2	2021	2	2022	2	2023	2	2024	2	2025	2	2026
Gross MLA Rent	\$	666	\$	669	\$	672	\$	676	\$	679	\$	682
Settlement Payments		(191)		-		(98)		(98)		(74)		-
GCI Reimbursement		(221)		(238)		(250)		(225)		(175)		(175)
GCI Rent		1		14		32		55		74		90
Net GCI Reimbursement		(220)		(224)		(218)		(170)		(101)		(85)
Net Cash Payments Comparison To Stated Rent	\$	254 (411)	\$	445 (224)	\$	356 (316)	\$	407 (268)	\$	504 (175)	\$	597 (85)

#### **Renewal Rent**

	Exhibit E Rent Calculation				Renewa	I R	ent Se	nsi	tivity			
	Initial Term		<b>Renewal Term</b>				2	2030 F	air I	Marke	t Va	alue
Fair Lease Rate <sup>(2)</sup>		10.35%		8.00%				3,900	\$4	1,900	\$5	5,900
Term (Months)		180		60	Useful	25 Years		189	\$	237	\$	285
		100		00	Life	30 Years		157		197		238
Beginning Fair Market Value	\$	7,450	\$	4,900		35 Years		135		169		204
Ending Residual Value		(2,465)		(4,083)			2	030 F	air I	Marke	t Va	alue
PV (FMV – Residual Value)	\$	4,985	\$	817			\$3	8,900	\$4	4,900	\$5	5,900
Annual Rent Payment	\$	650	\$	197	Fair Lease	7.0% 8.0%	\$	154 157	\$	193 197	\$	232 238
Remaining Useful Life <sup>(3)</sup>		22 Years		30 Years	Rate	9.0%		161		202		230 243

Renewal lease rate aligned to GCI rent rate.

3) Renewal leased asset remaining useful life aligned to Uniti 10-K fiber useful life.

# **Uniti Public Messaging On Lease Renewal**

Uniti's Statement	Documented Inconsistency
"Reflects Windstream disclosure adjusted to methodology <u>consistent</u> <u>withthe appraisal report received in 2015, including</u> <u>discounting the residual value correctly</u> " - Uniti 4Q21 Earnings Presentation	<ul> <li>"The uninflated residual value (RV) of each Distribution System at the end of the Lease Term (15 years) from the Valuation Date was calculated by taking the replacement cost new at the Lease Term and depreciating the assets based on their effective age plus another 15 years"</li> <li>2015 "Big Four" valuation report definition of residual value. <u>Residual value was not discounted in 2015 appraisal report</u></li> </ul>
"The rent was originally set at \$650 [million] in 2015 and then it was reset to the same number just last year using two exhaustive valuation analyses" - Uniti BAML Conference, November 30, 2021	<ul> <li>"Aggregate rent of ILEC Lease and CLEC Lease to be <u>equivalent to</u> <u>the rent payments under the current Master Lease</u> through the initial term as set forth on Schedule C"</li> <li>Rent was set forth in Settlement Agreement filed April 20, 2020, before any valuation work was started by either party. Both parties completed their own 2020 appraisal. Neither party participated in nor has seen the other party's 2020 valuation report</li> </ul>
"The CLEC fiber rights Uniti received as part of the settlement agreement <u>were not utilized</u> " - Uniti 4Q21 Earnings Call	<ul> <li>"Windstream (i) granted to Uniti exclusive rights to use 1.8 million fiber strand miles leased by Windstream under the CLEC MLA, which fiber strands are either unutilized or <u>utilized</u> under certain dark fiber indefeasible rights of use"</li> <li>Uniti 2021 10-K. Per CLEC MLA, transferred CLEC MLA strands comprise 63% of CLEC MLA utilized strands documented in Schedule 2.1-XX</li> </ul>
	ISTREAM 18

## Uniti Fair Market Value and <u>Non-Discounted</u> Uninflated Residual Value Guidance Results in 2030 Annual Cash Rent Less Than \$300 Million

Discounting Residual Value is not consistent with IRS Guidelines, Residual Value Definition In True Lease Nor The Methodology Used To Set \$650M Rent Payment

Note: Per Uniti 4Q 2021 Earnings	"Windstream View" Estimated Values & Methodology	"Windstream View" Adjusted Per Uniti	"Uniti View" ( <u>Partial Use of GCI)</u>	"Uniti View" ( <u>Full Use of GCI)</u>					
2030 Fair Market Value	\$4.9 Billion	\$5.7 Billion	\$6.7 Billion	\$7.2 Billion					
2035 Residual Value (Discounted Per Uniti)	\$4.1 Billion (Non-Discounted)	\$3.2 Billion \$3.7 Billion		\$3.9 Billion					
2030 Fair Lease Rate	8.0%	8.0% 9.2%		9.2%					
Uniti Stated 2030 Annual Cash Rent	\$197 Million	~\$600M Million ~\$750 Million		>\$800 Million					
Revised 2030 Annual Cash Rent Consistent With Residual Value Definition per Exhibit E Of Master Lease Agreements and IRS Guidelines									
2035 Residual Value (Not Discounted <sup>(1)</sup> )	No Change	\$4.8 Billion	\$5.9 Billion	\$6.2 Billion					
Corrected 2030 Annual Cash Rent	\$197 Million	\$225 Million	\$211 Million	\$257 Million					

**WINDSTREAM** 

1) "2035 Residual Value (Non-Discounted)" is calculated as the future value of the "2035 Residual Value (Discounted Per Uniti)" using the 2030 Fair Lease Rate over a 5-year period.

# **Residual Value is Defined Term In Master Leases That Must Align To IRS Guidelines**

### Overview of Exhibit E Calculation and Terms

#### Fair Market Rental Formula

Fair Market Rental = PMT (rate, nper, pv, [fv],[type])

rate = Fair Lease Rate

nper = Renewal Term

pv = Fair Market Value – Residual Value

fv = 0

type = 1 (lease payment due at beginning of period)

<u>Residual Value</u>: The uninflated <u>FUTURE</u> value of the Appraised Facility as of the expiration date of Renewal Term, but in any case, shall be based on IRS guidelines and methods consistent with that of lease transactions

### Original 2015 "Big Four" Valuation Analysis

- 2015 Fair Market Value: \$7.45 Billion
- 2030 Uninflated Residual Value: \$2.465 Billion (33% of FMV)
- Fair Lease Rate of 10.35%
- Results in annual lease payment of \$650M

	Initi	ial Term
Fair Lease Rate Term (Months)		10.35% 180
Beginning Fair Market Value Ending Residual Value	\$	7,450 (2,465)
PV (FMV – Residual Value)	\$	4,985
Annual Rent Payment	\$	650

- <u>"Uninflated Residual Value" Definition:</u> The uninflated residual value (RV) of each Distribution System at the end of the Lease Term (15 years) ... from the Valuation Date was calculated by taking the replacement cost new at the Lease Term and depreciating the assets based on their effective age plus another 15 years
- If you assume that the 2030 Uninflated Residual Value of \$2.465B used to calculate the \$650M rental payment was a discounted value consistent with Uniti's stated methodology, then the implied non-discounted Uninflated Residual Value would have been \$11.6B, representing an increase in value of more than 50% over the 15-year term for a predominantly copper asset in an analysis that assumed no inflation nor improvements (*i.e.* \$11.6B = \$2,465M \* (1 + 10.35%/12)^180)