



WASHINGTON, DC

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October 5, 2017

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: **GN Docket No. 17-258**  
**Notice of Oral Ex Parte Presentation**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On October 5, 2017, Paul Margie representing Google LLC and Alphabet Access and the undersigned representing the Wireless Internet Service Providers Association (“WISPA”) met with Travis Litman, Chief of Staff and Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel, to discuss the draft Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the above-referenced proceeding.<sup>1</sup>

We pointed out that the draft NPRM proposes to undo rules the Commission unanimously adopted just two years ago, and discussed that wireless Internet service providers (“WISPs”) and many others had invested and deployed commercial services and experimental trials in reliance on those rules. As shown in the attached presentation that was discussed at the meeting, we emphasized that the existing rules are accelerating fixed broadband deployment to rural areas, supporting many different business models and companies, and would permit the implementation of 5G’s vision of advancing to multi-modal, heterogeneous wireless networks. The proposed rules under consideration, however, would undermine broadband expansion in rural areas and virtually assure that only a select few large mobile wireless carriers would hold Priority Access Licenses (“PALs”). We also provided Mr. Litman with the attached map, which shows the locations of more than 60 potential CBRS licensees that filed letters with the Commission opposing the CTIA and T-Mobile proposals.

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<sup>1</sup> *Promoting Investment in the 3550-3700 MHz Band*, GN Docket No. 17-258, FCC-CIRC1710-04 (Oct. 3, 2017).



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We also discussed Professor Paul Milgrom's August 7, 2017 filing with the Commission, which provided his conclusion that the FCC could administer the CBRS PAL auction under the current rules. As explained more fully in the filing, he stated that CBRS auctions using the current rules' census-tract-sized licenses can be far simpler than the FCC's recent complex auctions, given the characteristics of CBRS licenses, including the band plan and the likely uses. Simultaneous ascending clock CBRS auctions would allow the Commission to administer an auction of a large number of licenses, which would be fast to implement and easy for bidders to use. This format would make participation easier, encourage competition, and lead to outcomes that are more efficient. Professor Milgrom noted in his filing that complementarity is weaker in the CBRS band, permitting a simpler auction.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's Rules, this letter is being filed electronically via the Electronic Comment Filing System in the above-captioned proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stephen E. Coran'.

Stephen E. Coran

Enclosures

cc: Travis Litman  
Paul Margie



# **Citizens Broadband Radio Service: Preserving the Right for All**

**October 5, 2017**

# 2015 Rules

- Unanimously adopted by five-member Commission
- Band covers 3550-3650 MHz now, and integrates 3650-3700 MHz in 2020
- Three-tier Spectrum Access System
  - Incumbent Access
    - Shipborne and ground-based radar
    - Fixed satellite earth stations
  - Priority Access (PALs)
    - Auctioned in 10-megahertz pieces dynamically assigned
    - Census tract auction
    - Three-year license terms
  - General Authorized Access (GAA)
    - “License by rule” for specific channels and opportunistic use

# Implementation

- WinnForum is developing SAS and ESC standards
- Equipment certifications to begin soon
- CBRS Alliance advancing LTE-based equipment
- Experimental licensees trialing equipment now
- Substantial investment in existing 3650-3700 MHz band is fueling competition, investment and deployment to rural Americans

# Draft NPRM

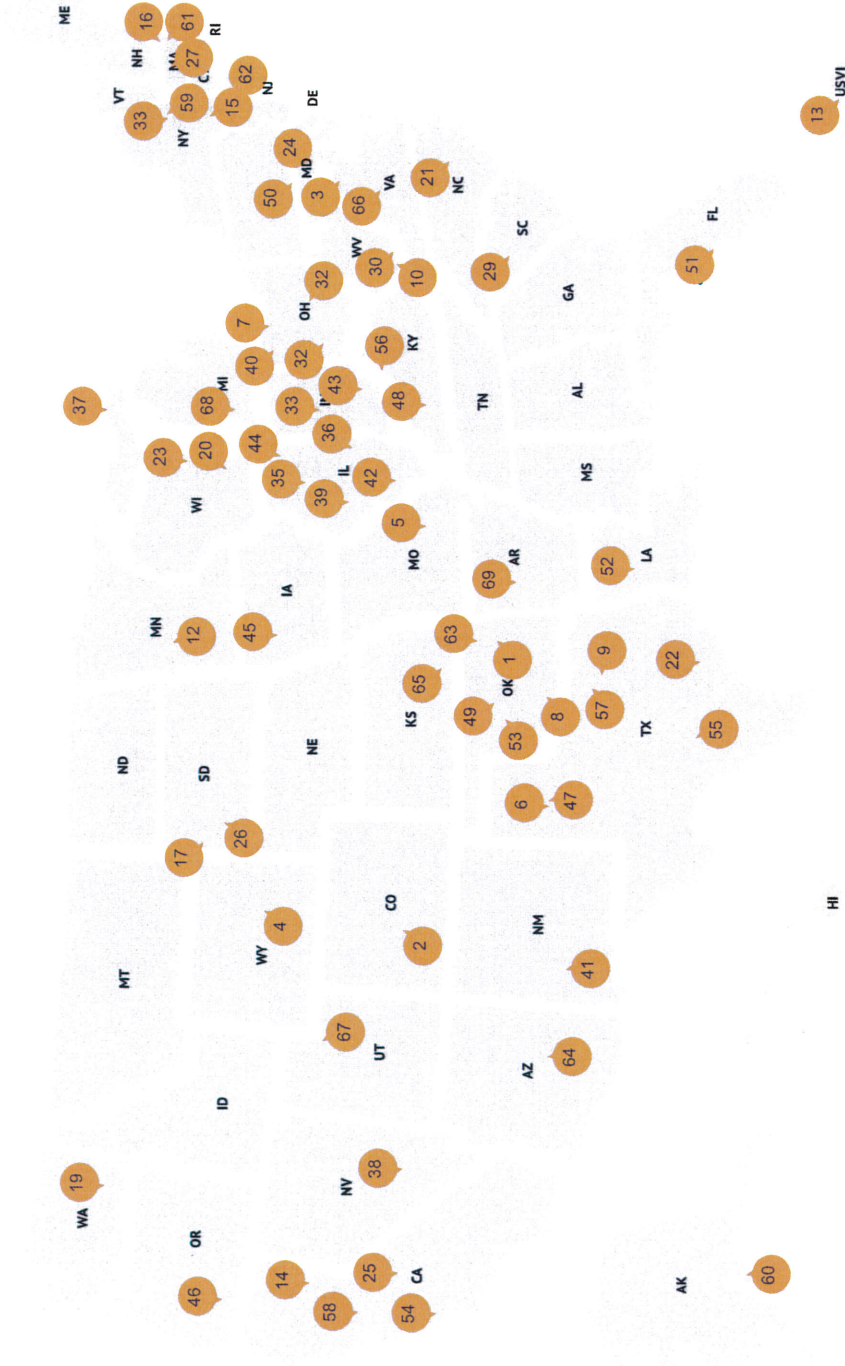
- Proposes rules that, in the real world, restrict use to large mobile carriers
  - 10-year license terms
  - Seeks comment on renewability
  - Auction PALs by larger geographic areas instead of census tracts
    - 74,000 census tracts of ~4,000 people
    - 416 PEAs (178 times larger)
    - 3,000+ counties
- Potential effects
  - Huge license areas benefit only the largest carriers—local providers cannot purchase rights to areas where they do not have networks or needs
  - Essentially permanent licenses are a barrier to entry by front-loading costs and excluding local investors, innovators, and new entrants
  - “Command and control” licensing scheme would replace an approach intended to promote innovation, investment and deployment
  - The result? Far less spectrum opportunity for rural broadband, venues, neutral hosts, IoT and others
  - This will also strand investment made in anticipation of rules adopted just two years ago



# Stay Committed to Rural Broadband and Innovation

- Providing high quality fixed broadband to unserved America is a higher priority than making auction administration marginally easier for four companies
- Please maintain the FCC's 2015 framework for CBRS
  - Small license areas encourage targeted private investment to connect the unserved and to offer innovative, local services
  - License terms should encourage deployment and competition
  - WISPs, manufacturers and others have invested millions in 3550-3700 MHz deployments, service and testing
  - FCC can conduct auctions for census tracts without difficulty
  - FCC can keep short-term licenses while still affording incumbent PALs the opportunity to obtain return on investment

# Companies Across America Oppose CTIA's Radical Changes to the Innovation Band



1 AirLink Internet Services 2 Align Tec Incorporated 3 All Points Broadband 4 Alluretech 5 Alsat Wireless 6 Amarillo Wireless 7 Amplex Electric 8 Arbuckle Communications 9 Baicells Technologies 10 Bland County, Virginia 11 Bolt Internet 12 Broadband Corp 13 Broadband VI 14 Cal.net 15 Cantor Telecom Services 16 Casa Systems 17 Celerity Networks 18 Charter Communications 19 Columbia Energy 20 E-vergent.com 21 Eastern Carolina Broadband 22 EBTX Wireless 23 Excel.Net 24 Federated Wireless 25 Fire2Wire 26 Fourway Computer Products 27 General Electric 28 Gigabeam Networks 29 GlobalVision 30 Google 31 Hudson Valley Wireless 32 Imagine Networks 33 Intelligent Computing Solutions 34 Intellwave Broadband 35 Internet Communications 36 Joink 37 Lighthouse.Net 38 LTD Broadband 39 Medianet Wireless 40 MetaLINK Technologies 41 Mimbres Communications 42 Motorola 43 New Lisbon Broadband and Communications 44 New Wave Net Corp 45 Northwest Communications 46 PEAK Internet 47 Plains Internet 48 Portafive Technologies 49 ProValue.Net 50 Quantum Internet and Phone 51 Rapid Systems 52 REACH4 Communications 53 RF Design Services 54 Ruckus Wireless 55 Rural Texas Broadband 56 Shelby Broadband 57 SmartBurst 58 Softcom Internet Communications 59 Sony 60 SpitwSpots 61 Starry 62 The City of New York 63 The Junction Internet 64 Tropic Networks 65 Valnet 66 Virginia Broadband 67 Vivint Wireless 68 West Michigan Wireless 69 Wireless etc