



October 9, 2018

**Via ECFS**

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**RE: NOTICE OF EX PARTE**  
**GN Docket No. 17-258: *Promoting Investment in the 3550-3700 MHz Band***

Dear Chairman Pai, Commissioner O’Rielly, Commissioner Carr, and Commissioner Rosenworcel:

The Rural Wireless Association, Inc. (“RWA”) appreciates the Commission’s efforts in the 3.5 GHz or Citizens Broadband Radio Service (“CBRS”) proceeding. RWA believes that the 3.5 GHz band holds great potential for next generation connectivity and ensuring that America is a leader in 5G, and can also provide a cost-effective solution for delivering fixed wireless broadband in rural areas.

RWA supports the FCC’s draft CBRS item that would employ county-based license sizes for PALs in the 3.5 GHz CBRS auction, and believes that the use of county-based license sizes will allow rural providers to participate in the 3.5 GHz auction for Priority Access Licenses (“PALs”) and further deploy rural broadband service. The choice of counties plus the inclusion of a 15 percent rural service provider bidding credit acknowledges the needs and realities of wireless broadband customers in rural America and will ensure that PALs remain affordable and accessible to the small, rural providers that directly serve these customers.

RWA’s rural wireless carrier members across the country appreciate the attention that Commissioners and staff have dedicated to this important issue. Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the FCC’s Rules,<sup>1</sup> this *ex parte* is being filed electronically with the Office of the Secretary.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carri Bennet".

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<sup>1</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206.