



January 29, 2018

Via Electronic Submission

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., SW, Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Ex Parte Communication
Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to
Infrastructure Investment, WT Docket No. 17-79**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Jan. 25, 2017, Charles McKee and I of Sprint met separately with Commissioner Brendan Carr and his legal advisor Will Adams; Rachael Bender, legal advisor to Chairman Pai; and Erin McGrath, legal advisor to Commissioner O’Rielly. On Jan. 26, we met with Umair Javed, legal advisor to Commissioner Rosenworcel.

Sprint addressed the need to reform the historic review process, including tribal historic review. The costs for Section 106 review have increased dramatically in recent years and constitute a substantial barrier to the deployment of small cells that are essential to provide more coverage and capacity to America’s mobile broadband consumers. For example, Sprint noted that it had recently received tribal review fee demands totaling \$90,000 to review six sites in Chicago. Sprint already has antennas at those six locations but was adding additional antennas to increase capacity. The project does not involve any ground disturbance. In general, macro cell collocations are exempt from historic review except when the location is in or near a historic district. These six sites are in or near historic districts even though those historic districts are not related to tribal history. Nevertheless, Commission rules require that carriers consult with tribal nations for such minor upgrades with no chance of adversely affecting a tribal historic property.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission’s Rules, a copy of this letter is being filed electronically in the above-referenced docket. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (703) 592-2560.

Sincerely,

/s/ Keith C. Buell

Keith C. Buell
Senior Counsel

cc: Will Adams
Rachael Bender
Erin McGrath
Umair Javed