

February 21, 2019

Ex Parte

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

Re: *Transforming the 2.5 GHz Band*, WT Docket No. 18-120

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Friday, February 15, 2019, I spoke by telephone about the above-captioned proceeding with Bill Davenport, Chief of Staff and Senior Legal Advisor for Wireless and International for Commissioner Geoffrey Starks, on behalf of Voqal, the North American Catholic Educational Programming Foundation, Inc. (NACEPF), and Mobile Beacon.

In our conversation, I discussed the history of the Educational Broadband Service (EBS) band and points raised by Voqal, NACEPF, and Mobile Beacon in their previous filings with the Commission in this proceeding. In particular, I explained how the Commission can best achieve its goal of intensive use of EBS spectrum—while promoting both rural deployment and educational connectivity—by modernizing, but retaining, its educational eligibility and usage rules, and automatically rationalizing existing license areas along county lines for all licensees. With respect to unassigned EBS spectrum, I discussed how priority windows that give tribal and educational institutions a meaningful chance to participate will speed licensing, accelerate deployment, and achieve spectrum policy diversity that will help bridge the digital divide.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Weiner
Counsel to Voqal, NACEPF, and Mobile Beacon

Cc: Bill Davenport