



February 27, 2018

BY ELECTRONIC FILING

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

Re: **NOTICE OF EX PARTE**
WT Docket No. 17-79: *Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment;*
WT Docket No. 15-180: *Revising the Historic Preservation Review Process for Wireless Facility Deployment;*
WC Docket No. 17-84: *Accelerating Wireline Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

We are CEOs and senior-ranking officers representing wireless carriers serving customers in cities, small towns, and rural areas throughout the United States. Streamlined infrastructure reform is critical to serving consumers in low density, hard-to-reach areas, and we support the Federal Communications

Commission's ("FCC" or "Commission") work to address barriers to mobile broadband deployment. To bridge the digital divide in rural America, we urge immediate action by the Commission to spur investment and increase certainty as we work to preserve and expand service in the most challenging locales in the United States.

Non-nationwide carriers serving rural and regional consumers are actively engaged in the communities they serve. We connect critical services such as telehealth to patients for monitoring and cutting-edge cures, and enable students to access the same educational resources as their peers in urban centers. On farmlands and ranchlands, our networks often cover more cattle than people, and mobile broadband helps farmers leverage modern farm equipment in today's thriving agriculture community to conserve resources and increase yields. And in times of emergency or disaster, we are the critical link to public safety networks and services.

With the move towards next-generation technologies, the time is ripe to adopt streamlined infrastructure policies that promote investment, expedite processes, and remove red tape. Specifically, streamlined regulations should reflect advancement in technology, and regulations for tall towers should not apply to small cells and Distributed Antenna System ("DAS"). The FCC should take immediate steps to declare that small cells and DAS technology do not require duplicate and redundant review actions which slow or cease mobile infrastructure deployments. Likewise, the Commission should adopt targeted policy reforms that streamline historic and environmental application review processes, and encourage collaboration between Tribal entities and state and local governments, to reduce or eliminate burdensome deployment procedures for all stakeholders.

The Commission's commitment to reforming mobile broadband infrastructure deployment processes is shared by nationwide, rural, and regional carriers alike. We commend the work done thus far and remain eager for continued collaboration with the Commission, Congress, Tribes, and states to streamline and update infrastructure siting policies and help close the digital divide in rural America.

This letter is being filed electronically with your office pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules.

Respectfully submitted,



W. Allen Gillum
East Kentucky Network, LLC
d/b/a Appalachian Wireless



Michael Prior
Atlantic Tele-Network



Brian Gelfand
Blue Wireless



Ron Smith
Bluegrass Cellular



Ben Moncrief
C Spire



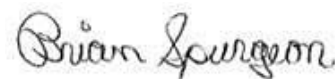
Slayton Stewart
Carolina West



Steven K. Berry
CCA



Jonathan Foxman
MTPCS, LLC d/b/a Cellular One



Brian Spurgeon
Chat Mobility

James W. Hofman, II
Docomo Pacific

F. Bradley Erwin
FTC Communications

Maureen Moore
GCI

Brent Groome
HTC

Nathan Weiss
Inland Cellular

Craven Shumaker
iWireless

James Groft
James Valley
Telecommunications

Jon Lightle
Nex-Tech Wireless

Roger Bundridge
Northwest Missouri Cellular

Willy Pirtle
Shentel

Michael Beehn
SI Wireless

Edwin Eichler
Thumb Cellular

Craig Gates
Triangle Communications

Eric Woody
Union Wireless

Ken Meyers
U.S. Cellular

Frank DiRico
Viaero

cc (via email): Rachael Bender
Jay Schwarz
Claude Aiken
Louis Peraertz
Erin McGrath
Amy Bender
Will Adams
Travis Litman
Umair Javed