



February 28, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., Room TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554

Re: GN Docket No. 12-268; ET Docket No. 16-56; ET Docket No. 14-165;
MB Docket No. 15-146; MB Docket No. 16-306; RM-11745

Madam Secretary:

On February 25, 2018, Microsoft and Packerland Broadband announced a partnership to provide Internet access to 82,000 people living in rural northern Wisconsin and the upper peninsula of Michigan.¹ The Packerland project, a part of our Rural Airband Initiative, will use TV White Spaces spectrum to deliver high-quality broadband to businesses and consumers throughout the region.

At this week's National Governors Association Winter Meeting, Microsoft President Brad Smith discussed the Packerland Partnership, as well as the urgent need for both public and private engagement to improve rural broadband so that, "people who live in the rural parts of this country have the future they deserve." Mr. Smith also announced that Microsoft is organizing a buyers' consortium to increase economies of scale to drive down costs, accelerate innovation, and to improve the performance and affordability of consumer devices.²

¹ See, <https://venturebeat.com/2018/02/25/microsoft-partners-with-michigan-company-to-bring-internet-access-to-82000-rural-residents/>.

² Mr. Smith's presentation can be accessed at, <https://www.c-span.org/video/?441465-7/national-governors-association-winter-meeting-economy-labor-force-panel>.

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In connection with the above-referenced proceedings, we continue to urge the Commission to conclude the remaining issues in a manner that promotes the deployment of TV White Spaces technologies and the availability of broadband in rural America.

If you require any additional information, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

/s/ Paula Boyd

Paula Boyd
Senior Director, Government and
Regulatory Affairs
Microsoft Corporation