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March 9, 2018

**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: *Ex Parte Notification***

**PS Docket No. 17-344**, *Response Efforts Undertaken During 2017 Hurricane Season*;

**GN Docket No. 12-268**, *Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions*;

**MB Docket No. 16-306**, *Post-Incentive Auction Transition Scheduling Plan*; and

**GN Docket No. 14-177**, *Use of Spectrum Bands Above 24 GHz for Mobile Radio Services*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On March 7<sup>th</sup>, Mike Sievert, Neville Ray, and Jorge Martel of T-Mobile and I met with Chairman Pai, his Special Counsel Michael Carowitz, U.S. Congresswoman Jenniffer González-Colón, and Francisco Domenech in San Juan, Puerto Rico regarding the above-referenced proceedings.

*Hurricane Maria Recovery Efforts*

We expressed our ongoing support and commitment to Puerto Rico – not only by restoring services, but improving services. We reviewed with the group T-Mobile’s efforts to restore communications services to Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria, which had a devastating impact on the island. T-Mobile utilized more than a dozen cargo planes and multiple barges packed full of supplies and equipment, including trucks, cells-on-wheels, and numerous portable generators. T-Mobile’s efforts were not limited to transporting the supplies it needed for service restoration. T-Mobile made room on its cargo planes for generators and supplies needed by the Department of Homeland Security and other carriers. T-Mobile even loaned a large generator to the Federal Aviation Administration, which helped facilitate the start of and continued operations at the San Juan airport. T-Mobile also accounted for each of its more than six hundred local employees, shipped food and water, and partnered with local entities to help some of the devastated

communities.<sup>1/</sup> T-Mobile is proud to support Puerto Rico and the people of Puerto Rico and looks forward to continuing and strengthening its commitment there.

### *600 MHz Repacking*

We also noted that FCC authorization allowing broadcasters, as part of the 600 MHz repacking process, to transition early will further enhance T-Mobile's ability to strengthen coverage.<sup>2/</sup> The early transition of the television stations in Puerto Rico serves the dual policy objectives of repurposing spectrum for wireless broadband use while ensuring continued vitality of the television broadcast industry. T-Mobile has fifty megahertz of 600 MHz spectrum in Puerto Rico, and the early repack of broadcasters there allows us to deploy this spectrum far sooner than would otherwise be possible, including for 5G service, as equipment is available. Consequently, this early repacking of the 600 MHz band provides an important opportunity for citizens in Puerto Rico to benefit from significantly improved access to broadband.

### *Millimeter Wave Auctions*

Finally, we thanked Chairman Pai for his recent announcement that the Commission plans to begin auctions for millimeter wave spectrum – an action T-Mobile strongly supports.<sup>3/</sup> We observed, however, that the public interest can be even better served by the Commission moving quickly to auction *all* of the millimeter wave bands allocated for terrestrial mobile use in the *Spectrum Frontiers* proceeding, including multiple (if not all) of those bands together in the initial millimeter wave auction. These include the 24 GHz, 28 GHz, 37 GHz, 39 GHz and 47 GHz bands. T-Mobile is well positioned to launch 5G services in high-band spectrum, but the Commission must act soon to make this additional spectrum available to ensure that consumer expectations can be met.

We noted that auctioning all of the spectrum together is particularly important to promoting more competition among wireless providers – including with respect to wireless carriers that have already obtained millimeter wave spectrum – and to hastening American leadership on 5G services for the benefit of American consumers and industries. Much of the 28 GHz and 39 GHz bands is already licensed.<sup>4/</sup> Auctioning more than just the 28 GHz band will, among other

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<sup>1/</sup> See *Comments of T-Mobile USA, Inc.*, PS Docket No. 17-344 (filed Jan. 22, 2018).

<sup>2/</sup> See Letter from Steve B. Sharkey, Vice President, Government Affairs, Technology and Engineering Policy, T-Mobile USA, Inc., to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, GN Docket No. 12-268, *et al.*, (filed Nov. 21, 2017).

<sup>3/</sup> Ajit Pai, Chairman, Fed. Comm. Comm'n, Remarks at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, Spain (Feb. 26, 2018), [https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-343646A1.pdf](https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-343646A1.pdf).

<sup>4/</sup> See *Application of AT&T Mobility Spectrum LLC and FiberTower Corporation For Consent to Transfer Control of 39 GHz Licenses*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, DA 18-125 (rel. Feb. 8, 2018) (approving transfer of 39 GHz licenses from FiberTower to AT&T); *Application of Verizon Communications Inc. and Straight Path Communications, Inc. for Consent to Transfer Control of Local Multipoint Distribution Service, 39 GHz, Common Carrier Point-to-Point Microwave, and 3650-3700 MHz Service Licenses*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 33 FCC Rcd 188 (2018) (approving transfer of 28 GHz and 39 GHz licenses from Straight Path to Verizon); *Application of Celco Partnership d/b/a*

benefits, draw more participants and capital, resulting in greater benefits to the U.S. Treasury and the American taxpayer, and in a faster, broader, and more competitive roll out of 5G services.

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Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b)(2) of the Commission's rules, an electronic copy of this letter is being filed in the above-referenced dockets and a copy is being provided to Messrs. Pai and Carowitz. Please direct any questions regarding this filing to me.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Steve B. Sharkey

Steve B. Sharkey

Vice President, Government Affairs  
Technology and Engineering Policy

cc: (each electronically)  
Hon. Ajit Pai  
Michael Carowitz

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*Verizon Wireless and XO Holdings For Consent to Transfer Control of Local Multipoint Distribution Service and 39 GHz Licenses*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 32 FCC Rcd 10125 (2017) (approving the transfer of 28 GHz and 39 GHz licenses from XO Holdings to Verizon).