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VIA ECFS

Ex Parte

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

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

Dear Chairman Pai, Commissioner O’Rielly, Commissioner Carr, and Commissioner Rosenworcel:

On November 2, forty-four (44) companies and organizations filed in support of Microsoft’s proposed rule changes to make TV white spaces spectrum an even better tool for expanding rural broadband.¹ Frontier Communications Corporation (Frontier) joins this chorus of support for Microsoft’s proposed changes. Frontier appreciates the Commission’s efforts to date to bring broadband to rural communities, but there is still more to be done.

Frontier has been testing TV White Spaces spectrum as an additional tool to reach the hardest-to-serve rural Americans, and Frontier believes that TV White Spaces spectrum can help serve additional these consumers – especially if there is sufficient spectrum available with appropriate technical rules. With especially good propagation characteristics for reaching customers further away than is possible with other existing unlicensed bands, TV White Spaces spectrum can provide an important supplemental and cost-effective strategy for augmenting existing and planned deployments to reach even more rural Americans in some of the highest cost areas to provide broadband. As the Commission knows, broadband has positive effects on healthcare, education, and employment, which are three critical concerns in rural areas. By adopting Microsoft’s proposed changes, the Commission can provide an important additional tool for helping to close the digital divide. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kenneth Mason

Kenneth Mason

¹ Letter from Connect Americans Now, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, ET Docket No. 16-56, ET Docket No. 14-165, MB Docket No. 15-146, RM-11745, GN Docket No. 12-268 (filed Nov. 2, 2018); *see also* Letter from Microsoft Corporation, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, ET Docket No. 16-56, ET Docket No. 14-165, MB Docket No. 15-146, RM-11745, GN Docket No. 12-268 (filed Oct. 2, 2018).