

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)	
)	
Amendment of Parts 1, 2, 22, 24, 27, 90)	WT Docket No. 10-4
and 95 of the Commission’s Rules to Improve)	RM-11784
Wireless Coverage Through the Use of)	
Signal Boosters)	

To: The Commission

**COMMENTS
OF THE
ENTERPRISE WIRELESS ALLIANCE**

The Enterprise Wireless Alliance (“EWA” or “Alliance”), in accordance with Section 1.415(a) of the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC” or “Commission”) rules and regulations, respectfully submits the following comments in response to the Public Notice¹ requesting comment on the Wilson Electronics (“Wilson”) Petition for Rulemaking² proposing to eliminate the personal use restriction on wideband consumer signal boosters. The Alliance previously filed comments in this proceeding³ in which it supported the FCC proposal to remove that limitation from the use of provider-specific consumer signal boosters.⁴

For the reasons described herein, EWA strongly endorses the Wilson proposal to eliminate the personal use qualifier entirely. As explained in the Petition, the restriction is ambiguous and unnecessary for the prevention of interference. In EWA’s experience, this ambiguity has

¹ Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Seeks Comment on Wilson Electronics Petition for Rulemaking to Eliminate the Personal Use Restriction on Wideband Consumer Signal Boosters, WT Docket No. 10-4, *Public Notice*, DA 17-220 (rel. Mar. 3, 2017) (“Public Notice”).

² Wilson Electronics, LLC, Petition for Further Rulemaking, WT Docket No. 10-4 (filed Dec. 21, 2016) (“Petition”).

³ Amendment of Parts 1, 2, 22, 24, 27, 90 and 95 of the Commission’s Rules to Improve Wireless Coverage Through the Use of Signal Boosters, *Order on Reconsideration and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, WT Docket No. 10-4, 29 FCC Rcd 11563 (2014) (“Order on Recon”).

⁴ EWA Comments, WT Docket No. 10-4 (filed Dec. 29, 2014).

discouraged the use of both provider-specific and wideband consumer signal boosters by enterprise users, a result that is contrary to the Commission's efforts to promote ubiquitous access to broadband service. EWA urges the FCC to address this issue promptly and eliminate a restriction that serves no apparent public interest.

Working with the Commission, the industry has made tremendous strides in establishing rules of the road that allow the broader use of consumer signal boosters, while eliminating the destructive interference to a wireless network that can be caused by an improperly designed and installed device. The Network Protection Standard ("NPS") adopted in 2013⁵ established a baseline for consumer booster design quality agreed to by equipment vendors and carriers. In the absence of a record of problems since then, it appears that adherence to the NPS has proven highly effective in preventing interference before it occurs, thereby minimizing the often very time-consuming process of locating and correcting a problem device after the fact.

Adoption of the further modification proposed in the Petition will resolve the remaining issue in this proceeding and further the Commission's objective of promoting access to and use of advanced system capabilities. The Alliance's membership includes a broad range of large and small enterprise users, as well as commercial service providers that design and install systems used by those companies, by governmental entities, and by consumers. While enterprise and governmental users often deploy industrial signal boosters to maximize coverage of their own radio systems within facilities and across campuses, they also sometimes need to enhance coverage from their commercial provider inside offices or other locations, a problem that can be solved by the use of a consumer signal booster.

⁵ Amendment of Parts 1, 2, 22, 24, 27, 90 and 95 of the Commission's Rules to Improve Wireless Coverage Through the Use of Signal Boosters, *Report and Order*, WT Docket No. 10-4, 28 FCC Rcd 1663 at ¶¶ 49-69 (2013) ("Order").

However, as pointed out in the Petition, the term “personal use” has created substantial confusion about what communications may and may not be transmitted using a properly registered consumer signal booster, whether provider-specific or wideband. EWA has received a number of inquiries where the answer, in EWA’s opinion, is not clear. Does it matter who the party is that has contracted with the carrier(s) and registered the device? That is, does the permitted use change depending on whether the business or an employee has registered the device? For example, if the subscriber that installs the booster is a business rather than an individual, is “personal use” limited to communications related to that business or may employees and visitors use it to conduct their individual personal activities as well, again, provided that the device has been properly registered? Conversely, if an individual employee at a business takes the initiative to purchase and register a signal booster, may that individual use it for business-related communications or is its use limited to communications of a personal nature? May other employees use it routinely and, if so, for business or non-business communications?

The issues that arise related to the personal use qualifier are “angels dancing on the heads of pins” type questions that EWA is confident the FCC did not intend. The Commission has determined that “...because signal boosters represent a cost-effective means of improving our nation’s wireless infrastructure, the rules we adopt today should lead to more robust service for many Americans at home, at work, and on the road.”⁶ The steps already taken by the FCC to facilitate their broader use, while also addressing the need to protect the integrity of wireless networks through adoption of the NPS and the registration requirement, have proven highly effective at balancing those two essential objectives. The personal use restriction applicable to both provider-specific and broadband consumer signal boosters does not provide additional

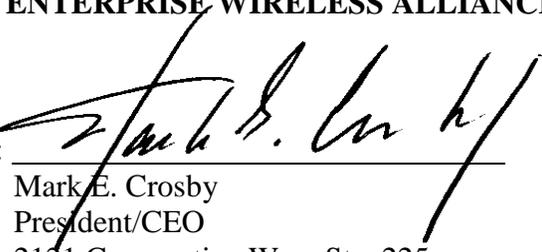
⁶ Order at ¶ 1.

interference protection for wireless networks, but discourages their use by business, public service, and public safety users. It is a restriction that offers no public interest benefit and runs counter to the FCC's objectives in this proceeding.

For these reasons, the Alliance believes that removing the personal use restriction for all consumer signal boosters, wideband as well as provider-specific, would be in the public interest.

ENTERPRISE WIRELESS ALLIANCE

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