April 16, 2020

VIA E-MAIL AND ELECTRONIC FILING

Annick Banoun
Federal Communications Commission
Competition Policy Division
Wireline Competition Bureau
Annick.Banoun@fcc.gov

Re:  Refresh of Record in Restoring Internet Freedom and Lifeline Proceedings, WC Docket Nos. 17-108, 17-287, 11-42

Dear Ms. Banoun,

We write on behalf of the City of Los Angeles, the County of Santa Clara, the Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District, and the City of New York to request a further 60-day extension of the deadlines to comment in the above-referenced proceedings. As you know, the original deadlines in these proceedings were March 30, 2020 for comments and April 29, 2020 for reply comments. On March 11, 2020, the City of Los Angeles and the County, among others, requested a 30-day extension of these original deadlines. On March 25, 2020, the Commission adopted an Order extending the deadlines by 21 days.

While we appreciated this extension, circumstances have not improved since our initial request was submitted. To the contrary, after our March 11 extension request, jurisdictions around the country—including in the Cities of Los Angeles and New York and the County—have ordered residents to shelter in place, and many essential public safety and public health officials are working around the clock to protect residents from the novel coronavirus pandemic. Indeed, New York City is the current epicenter of the Covid-19 pandemic. For these reasons, a further extension is necessary to ensure that the refreshed record is complete.

Local governments still face a critical need for an extension if they are to provide full and accurate responses to the inquiries set out in the Commission’s February 19, 2020 Public Notice. Our governmental personnel, including emergency operations staff and centers, continue to be fully
occupied by response to the current State of Emergency. They cannot be diverted from their critical operations. Despite our best efforts to meet the Commission’s deadline, because many of the Commission’s inquiries request information that can only be provided by these personnel and resources, we have been unable to obtain much of the requested information within the period set by the Commission.

Put simply, we remain in the thick of responding to the current public health emergency. And this is exactly the sort of emergency that was at the center of the concerns local governments articulated in the original record in these proceedings—concerns that the Commission failed to consider. See Mozilla Corp. v. FCC, 940 F.3d 1, 60-63 (D.C. Cir. 2019). The input of our emergency and public safety personnel is critical to an accurate record in these matters as well as the Commission’s meaningful consideration of public safety issues. We wish, and intend, to provide that input, as soon as we are able.

We know that the Commission does not intend to put local governments to the choice of protecting public safety or protecting residents’ interests in these proceedings. We believe that local jurisdictions will be fully occupied in responding to the current emergency for at least the next 30 days. For example, the City of Los Angeles’s Safer at Home Emergency Order was recently extended through May 15, 2020—and may be further extended. As a result, we respectfully request a 60-day extension of the deadlines to comment in these proceedings.

Please don’t hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Elina Druker
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New York City Law Department

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