

April 30, 2018

**Ex Parte**

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington DC 20554

Re: *Amendment of Parts 1, 21, 73, 74 and 101 of the Commission's Rules to Facilitate the Provision of Fixed and Mobile Broadband Access, Educational and Other Advanced Services in the 2150-2162 and 2500-2690 MHz Bands; Transforming the 2.5 GHz Band*, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, WT Docket No. 03-66, WT Docket No. 18-120.

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Thursday, April 26, on behalf of Voqal and the North American Catholic Educational Programming Foundation, Inc. (NACEPF), I met with Will Adams, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Brendan Carr, to discuss the draft Notice of Proposed Rulemaking released on April 19, 2018, in the above-captioned proceeding.

Voqal is the common trade name for a collaboration of five Educational Broadband Service (EBS) licensees<sup>1</sup> that advance social equity through innovation by creating an educated and engaged public. One of Voqal's programs, Mobile Citizen, focuses on expanding internet access to organizations working to bridge the digital divide, as well as serving educational institutions. NACEPF is a nonprofit organization that has licensed EBS spectrum in 51 markets across the U.S., including 9 large metropolitan areas, 18 mid-size markets, and 24 rural, under-served parts of the country. Through its Mobile Beacon program, NACEPF supports the broadband needs of K-12 schools, public libraries, colleges and universities, nonprofits, and other community anchor institutions.

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<sup>1</sup> The five Voqal licensees are: (1) Chicago Instructional Technology Foundation, Inc., an Illinois non-profit corporation; (2) Denver Area Educational Telecommunications Consortium, Inc., a Colorado non-profit corporation; (3) Instructional Telecommunications Foundation, Inc., a Colorado non-profit corporation; (4) Portland Regional Educational Telecommunications Corporation, an Oregon non-profit corporation; and (5) Twin Cities Schools' Telecommunications Group, Inc., a Minnesota non-profit corporation. Instructional Telecommunications Foundation hold seven EBS licenses. Each of the remaining four Voqal entities holds one.

During the meeting, we discussed the Commission's decision to revisit the EBS spectrum band and, in particular, to end the freeze on assignments that has left large areas of EBS spectrum unused, particularly in rural areas. Voqal and NACEPF welcome the FCC's decision to initiate this rulemaking, which has the potential to facilitate 5G wireless deployment and help close the digital divide, while advancing both commercial and educational uses of this spectrum. We further discussed the importance of ensuring that the Commission develops a comprehensive record on how to put EBS spectrum to its highest and best use.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Weiner".

Stephanie Weiner  
*Counsel to Voqal and NACEPF*

Cc: Will Adams