



May 3, 2019

Via Electronic Filing

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., Room TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: ***Notice of Ex Parte Presentation: Transforming the 2.5 GHz Band – WT Docket No. 18-120.***

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On May 2, 2019, James Goldstein and Gardner Foster, both Senior Counsel, Legal and Government Affairs of Sprint Corporation (“Sprint”), met with Aaron Goldberger of Chairman Pai’s office. At this meeting, Sprint reiterated the advocacy positions made in its comments to this proceeding.

Sprint pointed to the strong support across both the EBS community and commercial interests for “rationalization” of existing EBS licensees to county-based licenses and how that critical step in licensing 2.5 GHz spectrum would both close operational gaps and lead to more rural deployment at 2.5 GHz. Sprint specifically noted the recent well-reasoned arguments by the North American Catholic Educational Programming Foundation (“NACEPF”) and Mobile Beacon who rightly contend that rationalization “is the most expedient way to facilitate additional investment and deployment, empowering licensees and operators to deploy immediately to the areas adjacent to the current GSAs, accelerating both 5G and rural deployment.”¹

Relatedly, Sprint stressed the continued criticality of its leased 2.5 GHz spectrum and its long-standing mutually beneficial partnership with the EBS community which has enhanced Sprint’s current 4G LTE deployment and will enable its 5G mobile deployment in nine major markets in the first half of 2019. To support the long term viability of both these and future deployments, Sprint emphasized the importance of maintaining current leasing arrangements given the extensive investments Sprint and other operators have made in the 2.5 GHz band and the reliance EBS licensees have on the use of these networks. Sprint is opposed to any proposal, including the use of an incentive auction that would abrogate or impede the execution of these arrangements.

¹ See Letter Katherine Messier, North American Catholic Educational Programming Foundation (“NACEPF”) and Mobile Beacon, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WT Docket No. 18-120 (filed April 25, 2019) at 1-2.

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Pursuant to the Commission's Rules, Sprint files this written notice in the docket in this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ James B. Goldstein

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cc: (via e-mail)
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