May 21, 2018

Ex Parte

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

Re: Expanding Flexible Use in Mid-Band Spectrum Between 3.7 and 24 GHz, GN Docket No. 17-183; Expanding Flexible Use of the 3.7 GHz to 4.2 GHz Band, GN Docket No. 18-122

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On May 17, 2018, Colleen King of Charter Communications, Inc., Brian Josef of Comcast Corporation, and Keith Murphy of Viacom Inc., and Rick Chessen, Jacqueline Clary and myself of NCTA – The Internet and Television Association (“NCTA”) met with Michelle Carey, Thomas Horan, John Wong, and Sean Yun of the Media Bureau regarding the above-referenced proceedings.

During the meeting, NCTA and its member companies described the industry’s use of C-band spectrum in cable television distribution systems, focusing on the 3.7-4.2 GHz downlink spectrum, as set forth in the attached diagram. We highlighted that content companies rely on C-band to ensure reliable programming distribution to more than 100 million American TV households, via thousands of MVPD head ends, more than 1,000 broadcast affiliate stations, and over-the-top video distributors. We also noted that cable operators receive a significant amount of the programming they deliver to 51.9 million cable video customers using the 3.7-4.2 GHz band, relying on thousands of receive-only antennas, many of which are unregistered today. We discussed stakeholder proposals to enable expanded terrestrial wireless use of the band, including our assessment that neither fiber nor Ku-band spectrum would be an adequate, complete substitute for today’s C-band operations. We also stated that the Commission should avoid prematurely endorsing any particular proposal until it develops a comprehensive record demonstrating how the band’s existing services will be protected and incumbent users made whole.
Please address any questions regarding the foregoing to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

/s/ Danielle J. Piñeres

Danielle J. Piñeres

Encl.

cc: Michelle Carey
    Thomas Horan
    John Wong
    Sean Yun
CABLE VIDEO DISTRIBUTION

C-band downlink (3.7-4.2 GHz)
C-band uplink (5.925-6.425 GHz)

National Programmer Origination
Network Operations Center
Head end
Node
Regional Cable Programming

THE INTERNET & TELEVISION ASSOCIATION