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July 7, 2016

Ex Parte

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

**Re: Use of Spectrum Bands Above 24 GHz for Mobile Radio Services,
GN Docket No. 14-177**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On July 6, 2016, Craig Silliman, Executive Vice President – Public Policy and General Counsel of Verizon and I met with separately with Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel and Johanna Thomas of her office; Commissioner Mignon Clyburn and Daudeline Meme of her office; Commissioner Michael O’Rielly; and Commissioner Ajit Pai and Brendan Carr of his office. Mr. Silliman thanked the Commission for its vision and the speed with which it plans to adopt rules in the millimeter wave (“mmW”) bands. Done correctly, new rules that unleash mmW spectrum for 5G purposes can propel the United States to be the global leader in 5G.

Mr. Silliman explained that companies need flexibility to transfer, share and acquire mmW spectrum to meet the large bandwidths that will likely be necessary for 5G. And given that the *Spectrum Frontiers Further Notice* will propose making an additional 17.7 GHz of mmW spectrum available for flexible use, there will be an abundance of mmW spectrum available as 5G technologies and services develop.¹ There is no evidence of actual or tangible harm to warrant a mmW spectrum limit, and certainly no basis for band-specific limits. He also emphasized that because of the large bandwidths required for 5G, band-specific restrictions would be particularly onerous and inefficient, potentially delaying deployment or undermining 5G’s potential.

He also mentioned that satellite coexistence in the mmW bands is possible, but that satellites should remain secondary. Co-primary status would risk curtailing future terrestrial

¹ See FCC, Fact Sheet: Spectrum Frontiers Proposal to Identify, Open Up Vast Amounts of New High-Band Spectrum for Next Generation (5G) Wireless Broadband, at 2 (June 23, 2016) available at http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2016/db0623/DOC-339990A1.pdf (“*Spectrum Frontiers Fact Sheet*”).

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operations. In addition, we noted the significant technical work that Verizon and several other operators produced demonstrating that aggregate interference into the satellite is not an issue.²

Mr. Silliman expressed concern about assigning licenses in 28 GHz on a county level. Licenses of that size will create licensing burdens and could also lead to the deployment of hundreds of satellite gateways in densely populated areas if the Commission allows satellite zones in each license area. To avoid interference to 5G operations from secondary satellite operations in the 28 GHz band, any zones that the Commission creates for deployment of new satellite earth stations should exclude areas described in our *ex parte* filed on June 14.³ These include densely populated regions or areas that support transient populations, such as college campuses, airports and athletic venues.

He also asked the Commission to encourage 5G deployment by affording licensees flexibility in meeting any new performance requirements that the Commission decides to adopt. Flexibility will help allow nascent mmW technologies to continue to develop and evolve. One way to do that is to use safe harbors that provide non-exhaustive examples of what constitutes substantial service. And safe harbors for substantial service based on population coverage should take into account not just where people live, but also where they transit or visit.

Finally, Mr. Silliman emphasized that the Commission should not adopt particular cybersecurity technology mandates as part of the service rules. And if the Commission chooses to require a licensee to include a statement that it is incorporating security protections in its system deployment, it should not be overly prescriptive. The Commission should not require that a licensee reveal step-by-step what it is doing to protect the network and consumers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charles R. Silliman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

cc: Brendan Carr
Daudeline Meme
Johanna Thomas

² Ex Parte Letter of AT&T, Ericsson, Nokia, Samsung, T-Mobile, and Verizon, GN Docket No. 14-177 (June 1, 2016).

³ See Ex Parte Letter of Charla Rath to Marlene H. Dortch, Docket No. 14-177 (June 14, 2016).