

July 24, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of my company, Rural Texas Broadband regarding the petitions filed by CTIA and T-Mobile regarding proposed changes to the CBRS band.

We are a Wireless Internet Service Provider (WISP) based in South Texas. Our coverage area is primarily rural areas in the southern and western portions of the state, where most of our customers have limited choice to high speed services. We currently provide High Speed Internet Services up to 25 mbps to 1200+ customers in our service areas.

We have service plans ranging from 1.5 mbps to 25 mbps. We recently began investing in advanced wireless equipment to increase our existing speed packages in order to keep up with demand. One of those technologies is LTE, using the existing 3.650-3.700 MHz. To date, we have made limited investments in equipment for this band, but with the introduction of the new rules for the CBRS band, we are evaluating equipment options now and plan on deploying in this band very soon. Our company is planning a very substantial investment over the next 12 months in this band.

The primary reason for the investment in this technology was the introduction of the CBRS band. The benefits of having an additional 100 MHz of spectrum for our LTE service is huge. Not only will it allow us to offer higher speeds to our customers, it will help eliminate interference and will allow us to deploy the technology in more areas.

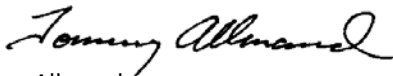
The idea of the FCC entertaining changes to the CBRS band rules at this point is very disturbing. That these changes are being requested by the big monopolistic mobile carriers and their associations makes it even worse. These mobile carriers are the ones that have caused companies like ours to be priced out of the market. They have the spectrum market to where they are the only ones that can afford it.

We have had to deal with the small slivers of unlicensed spectrum that is very congested in order to build our business for years. The shifting of channels and dealing with interference is an everyday occurrence in our business. We were so excited to hear about the new CBRS band and how it was going to help we immediately started learning more about it and started testing equipment.

Now the big carriers want to take this spectrum also. This spectrum was set aside for companies like ours to provide affordable internet to folks in rural markets. The major carriers don't want to provide service to these areas unless they can receive a government subsidy to do so. I have been providing service to these areas for many years, and not once asked for a government hand out. If you allow them to succeed, you are effectively saying that you do not care about the small businesses in Rural America providing quality internet service to these areas. Without the use of this band, it will be almost impossible to do so.

I am very much opposed to both petitions. Knowing how adversely these petitions would affect my customers, I can promise you that they agree with me. Our rural customers deserve to have options for service in Rural America just like customers do that live in larger metropolitan areas. Please allow us to continue to serve them, along with giving them a choice, by saying NO to the changes these petitions are requesting.

Sincerely,



Tommy Allmand
President & CEO
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