

Chemehuevi Indian Tribe

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FCC Mailroom

June 28th, 2018

To: Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communication Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW, Room TW-B204
Washington, D.C. 20554

From: Charles F. Wood, Chairman
Chemehuevi Indian Tribe
PO Box 1976
Havasus Lake, CA 92363

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Re: Comments regarding FCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Proceeding 18-120)

Secretary Dortch:

The Chemehuevi Indian Tribe would like to thank the FCC for the opportunity to provide comment on proposed rulemaking that would make unused portions of the 2.5 GHz band (2496-2690 MHz) available to Native Nations in rural areas.

In general, rural Native Nations have inadequate access to broadband service, creating a disparity that grows daily as society becomes increasingly dependent on internet-based communications. Expanding access to the 2.5 GHz band will enable the federal government to fulfill its trust responsibilities to sovereign Native Nations while strengthening Tribal self-determination. The Chemehuevi Indian Tribe would like to make the following recommendations regarding disbursement of unused portions of the 2.5 GHz band:

- 1] Native Nations should be granted a local priority filing window to obtain spectrum before other entities, including current licensees seeking to expand.
- 2] For Native Nations, the geographic service area should be marked by the Reservation boundaries rather than census tracts of counties.
- 3] During the local filing window, Native Nations should have the option of acquiring all available channels in the 2.5GHz band on their respective Reservation lands.

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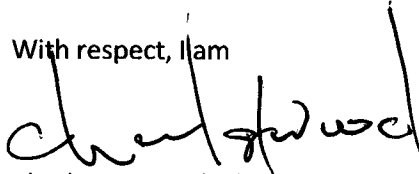
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4] If a GSA is not determined by the Reservation boundaries, educational entities on Tribal lands (Head Start, K12, tribal colleges and universities) should have a concurrent priority window (alongside Native Nations)

5] We request a 90-day notice before any priority filing window is introduced and 60-days within which to file for unused spectrum.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and urge the FCC to consider the importance of internet-equity for Native Nations as it makes unused portions of the 2.5 Ghz band available, prioritizing communities that have become increasingly disenfranchised in the digital age.

With respect, I am

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles F. Wood', written over the typed name.

Charles F. Wood, Chairman
Chemehuevi Indian Tribe