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By ECFS and email

Ex Parte

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

Re: Amendment of Part 15 of the Commission's Rules for Unlicensed Operations in the Television Bands, Repurposed 600 MHz Band, 600 MHz Guard Bands and Duplex Gap, and Channel 37, ET Docket No. 14-165 and RM-11840; Promoting Spectrum Access for Wireless Microphone Operations, GN Docket No. 14-166; Authorizing Permissive Use of the "Next Generation" Broadcast Television Standard, GN Docket 16-142

Dear Ms. Dortch,

On July 29, 2019, Paula Boyd and Vickie Robinson of Microsoft Corporation; Henry Wendel of Cooley LLP; Paul Margie of Harris, Wiltshire and Grannis LLP; and I met with Evan Swarztrauber, Policy Advisor for Commissioner Brendan Carr. We also met with Erin McGrath, Legal Advisor, Wireless, Public Safety and International for Commissioner Michael O'Rielly and Christopher McGillen, an intern in Commissioner O'Rielly's office. Microsoft provided an update on its Airband project that has established partnerships in 24 states with the goal of serving at least three million rural unserved people by 2022. We discussed Microsoft's petition for rulemaking, which proposes improvements to the Commission's White Spaces rules. While narrow, these proposals would significantly improve the rules' ability to support rural broadband connectivity. We highlighted the record's strong support for proceeding expeditiously with a notice of proposed rulemaking on the topics covered in Microsoft's petition. We also reiterated the arguments raised in our comments in the Commission's wireless microphone proceeding.¹ Finally, in response to a question from Mr. Swarztrauber, Mr. Margie reiterated Microsoft's opposition to allowing television broadcasters to use a second channel for ATSC 3.0 operations.

Sincerely,

Robert M. McDowell
Counsel to Microsoft Corporation

cc: Evan Swarztrauber
Erin McGrath
Christopher McGillen

¹ See Comments of Microsoft Corporation, GN Docket No. 14-166 (filed October 2, 2017).