Little Apple Technologies is a Montana based WISP in the Gallatin Valley operational since 2004. LAT enthusiastically supports the Petition for access to the 3700 – 4200 MHz for P2MP services. LAT would ask that the Commission should move ahead quickly to issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM). LAT is a rural provider with a focus on extending fixed broadband service to rural Americans that lack broadband or choice.

LAT has just under 1,800 customers in a very rural environment in the Gallatin Valley of Montana. While there is a large population center of Bozeman, most of the county lies outside the reach of wireline services. We offer competitive packages but are unable to offer higher bandwidth packages due to congestion in the unlicensed spectrum commonly used by WISPS. Customers are requiring more and more bandwidths as their needs, and therefore consumption, increase.

LAT has found that the 5Ghz unlicensed spectrum is very over-crowded in our area of operations, as are 2.4Ghz, 900Mhz and all other unlicensed bands. The proposed additional bandwidth in the 3Ghz spectrum should allow us to provide faster services to end users in our rural environment. The importance of accessing adequate and reliable spectrum cannot be overlooked.

LAT currently has approximately 300 customers on 3.65Ghz NN licensed equipment but we have been constrained by the lack of available channels. Access to the additional spectrum would allow LAT to deploy more access points to provide more customers with higher speed packages. The equipment to run in this spectrum is not inexpensive – access to additional spectrum would help to protect this investment and allow for companies like LAT to ensure QoS and attract investment.

There are line-of-sight issues and distance issues that LAT hopes access to this additional spectrum would overcome. The 3Ghz band performs better than the 5Ghz band when dealing with near-line-of-site issues and has similar power level limits to deal with overcoming the distance obstacle.

Paul Tackett, COO

Little Apple Technologies