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August 5, 2016

Ex Parte

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

Re: Expanding Consumers' Video Navigation Choices, MB Docket No. 16-42; Commercial Availability of Navigation Devices, CS Docket No. 97-80

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On August 3, 2016, Heather McDavitt, Jack Gallagher, Steve Francis, Will Johnson, Tamara Preiss and Leora Hochstein of Verizon met with the following Commission staff: Gigi Sohn, Counselor to the Chairman and Jessica Almond, Legal Advisor to the Chairman; Scott Jordan, Chief Technologist; Brendan Murray of the Media Bureau; and John Williams of the Office of General Counsel.

As we have previously indicated, Verizon shares the Commission's goals of promoting innovation in the set-top box market and ensuring that consumers have more choices in accessing the video programming to which they subscribe. As a competitive MVPD, Verizon seeks to deliver its content to customers when and where they want it and on the devices they choose. We noted that an apps-based approach could be effective in ensuring that consumers have alternatives to leasing set-top boxes from pay TV providers. We stated our support for an apps-based approach that relies on an open standard – HTML5 – and enables third party user interface and integrated search.

An apps-based approach could be effective in addressing the potential unintended consequences that we previously identified. For example, this approach could preserve the contracts between MVPDs and content owners that govern content rights, advertising, and service presentation. In addition, an apps approach could address our "app tax" concern and avoid creating new gatekeepers in the video marketplace by providing that MVPDs would be required to license their apps only to third parties that do not impose a tax or fee on MVPDs or consumers for providing or using the app. Finally, in addition to supporting an HTML5 app, we stressed the importance of continuing to allow MVPDs the option of developing "native" apps for third party devices that take advantage of the particular characteristics of those devices.

Sincerely,

cc: (via e-mail)
Gigi Sohn
Brendan Murray

Scott Jordan
John Williams

Jessica Almond