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By ECFS and email

Ex Parte

September 3, 2019

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

Dear Ms. Dortch,

On August 29, 2019, Paula Boyd and Paul Garnett of Microsoft Corporation; Henry Wendel of Cooley LLP; Paul Margie of Harris, Wiltshire and Grannis LLP; and I met with Nathan Leamer, Policy Advisor for Chairman Ajit Pai. Microsoft provided an update on its Airband project, which in the past 25 months has established partnerships in 24 states with the goal of extending broadband access to at least three million rural unserved people by July 4, 2022. Microsoft also is working with community organizations in these newly served areas to deliver free digital literacy courses so rural Americans can have greater access to economic, healthcare, and educational opportunities.

We also discussed Microsoft's petition for rulemaking, which proposes improvements to the Commission's White Spaces technical rules. Although modest and narrow, these proposals would significantly improve the rules' ability to support rural broadband connectivity and the Internet of Things. We highlighted the record's strong support for proceeding expeditiously with a notice of proposed rulemaking on the topics covered in Microsoft's petition.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should any questions arise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert M. McDowell".

Robert M. McDowell
Counsel to Microsoft Corporation

cc: Nathan Leamer