

December 10, 2018

Ex Parte

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

Re: ET Docket No. 16-56, ET Docket No. 14-165, MB Docket No. 15-146, RM-11745, GN Docket No. 12-268

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On December 6, Brad Smith, President of Microsoft Corporation; Paula Boyd, Senior Director, Government and Regulatory Affairs; Paul Garnett, Senior Director of the Microsoft Airband Initiative; Carol Ann Browne, Director of Communications; Robert McDowell, of Cooley LLP; and I met with Commissioner Carr and his Legal Advisors Will Adams and Evan Swarztrauber. In this meeting, Microsoft provided an update on the Airband Initiative, and discussed the company's long-term interest in White Spaces technology and the importance of unlicensed technologies to expanding broadband coverage. Through the Airband Initiative, Microsoft and rural ISPs across the country are working together to bring broadband access to previously unserved Americans, using White Spaces technology. Microsoft had previously committed to reaching two million previously unserved Americans by 2022, but Mr. Smith announced that Microsoft was increasing its commitment to three million Americans. Microsoft and its partners are well on their way to achieving this goal with deployments in 17 states which are projected to cover one million rural, unserved Americans with broadband.

To support efforts to expand rural broadband, Microsoft requested that the Commission resolve pending petitions for reconsideration and the White Spaces database accuracy and geolocation proceeding as soon as possible. Microsoft also requested that the Commission issue a further notice of proposed rulemaking proposing the rule changes detailed in its letter of October 2, 2018, which would increase gain and power in rural areas with greater separation distances, support the use of White Space frequencies for narrowband IoT, and allow White Spaces devices on moving vehicles in geo-fenced areas using fixed device rules.

Pursuant to the FCC's rules, I have filed a copy of this notice electronically in the above-referenced docket. If you require any additional information, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,



Paul Margie
Counsel to Microsoft Corporation

cc: meeting participants