My name is Tommy Waldrop. I am Co-Owner of a very new Wireless Internet Service Provider north of Montgomery, AL. We are focusing on rural parts of Alabama that have been left behind by larger carriers. We will be building our network on a mixture of 2.5 LTE and 3.65 LTE. We are planning on focusing our buildout on 2.5 LTE to maximize coverage in these underserved areas, and then add in 3.65 LTE for capacity so that we can provide the best service to our clients. We only have access to one EBS License (22.5MHz of 2.5GHz spectrum) which can only go so far in the way of bandwidth capacity. So in order for our network to be able to meet the demands, we must be able to take advantage of other available bands to meet the growing bandwidth needs of our consumers. Which is why we, along with most of the small rural ISP’s across the country, are very interested in making full and efficient use of the new CBRS band in the best interest of our nation’s rural citizens. Unlicensed bands such as 900MHz, 2.4GHz, and 5Ghz are simply becoming too congested to provide the reliable and sufficient speeds our consumers deserve. So we need licensed spectrum to reliably deliver this. Census Tracts favor small businesses. Large companies have had plenty of options for licensed spectrum for years. This band was meant for the smaller companies who will do a better job of focusing on the rural consumer. Because to us, they are not just a customer, they are our neighbors and friends.

CBRS stands for the “Citizen’s Broadband Radio Service”. Not the “Carrier’s Broadband Radio Service”. We all know that using PEA’s will price small rural providers out of the upcoming license auction. Thus letting the larger carriers pick up all of the licenses. Which they will then use to provide service in the population centers, and leave our rural neighbors out of luck, yet again. And all of that spectrum outside of the population centers will lie there unusable to help provide broadband to those with no options. A vote for large PEA license areas is a vote against Rural consumers. Getting better Rural Broadband for our citizens across the country is always being pushed for, and I think it’s time the FCC put their money where their mouth is. Which will take priority? Large Carriers? Or Rural Americans? The whole country is watching for your decision.

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