

Ellensburg Telephone (FairPoint) Reply to CB Challenges – Washington Broadband  
WC Docket No. 14-93

Washington Broadband (“Washington”) has challenged the eligibility of sixteen (16) census blocks (See Attachment ) identified as “unserved” located in the service area of Ellensburg Telephone Company d/b/a FairPoint Communications (“FairPoint”). Washington asserts it offers qualifying terrestrial fixed wireless broadband and qualifying voice service in these census blocks, The “Factual Statement of Mercy Forbes, President, Washington Broadband, Inc.” describes the characteristics of the qualifying broadband and voice offerings. Supporting evidence submitted consists of a screenshot of the National Broadband map, a mapping of service area prepared by an outside consultant as reported to state authorities and a screenshot of the company’s website which provides information of broadband offerings.

Lacking from this presentation is any evidence of current or former customers of voice and broadband services in these census blocks. This of particular concern since Washington announced the availability of voice service on its website on August 14, 2014, the date its CAF II broadband challenges were filed with this Commission. In the absence of such verifiable evidence, the Commission should not grant the challenges.

In addition, the broadband offerings described by Washington include consumer offerings ranging between 1.5 and 8Mb speeds. However speed provided can depend upon network usage and signal strength. Washington does not provide any support to confirm that the combinations of these factors results in a broadband offering in these challenged census blocks which meets the Commission requirements for a broadband offering at 4Mb speed.

In summary, Washington’s census block challenges should be denied because they are not supported by an adequate showing of proof.