



April 1, 2015

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

Re: Notice of Ex Parte Communication, MB Docket No. 15-53

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Monday, March 30, 2015, Rick Kaplan and the undersigned met with Bill Lake, Michelle Carey, Holly Saurer, Nancy Murphy, Mary Beth Murphy, and Steven Broeckaert, all of the Media Bureau, as well as Susan Aaron of the Office of General Counsel, to discuss the Commission's implementation of Section 111 of the STELA Reauthorization of 2014 (STELAR).¹

We discussed Section 111's narrow, specific directive that the Commission "establish a streamlined process for filing of an effective competition petition ... for small cable operators."² We stated that the Commission's proposal to adopt a new rebuttable presumption of effective competition for all cable operators raises significant concerns and goes far beyond STELAR's limited directive to modify the petition filing process for small cable operators. In particular, we observed that the proposal may have far-reaching, unintended consequences, including implications that could cause an increase in rates for cable TV customers. Thus, we urged that the Commission is best

¹ *Amendment to the Commission's Rules Concerning Effective Competition; Implementation of Section 111 of the STELA Reauthorization Act*, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, MB Docket No. 15-53, FCC No. 15-30 (Mar. 16, 2015)(*NPRM*).

² Pub. L. No. 113-200, § 111, 128 Stat. 2059 (2014). Congress further stated that: "[n]othing in this subsection shall be construed to have an effect on the duty of a small cable operator to prove the existence of effective competition..." *Id.*

served by confining the NPRM to the four corners of what Congress instructed it to do.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Goodwin". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Scott Goodwin
Associate General Counsel
Legal and Regulatory Affairs

cc: Bill Lake
Michelle Carey
Holly Saurer
Nancy Murphy
Mary Beth Murphy
Steven Broeckaert
Susan Aaron