



NOTICE OF EX PARTE

May 29, 2015

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington D.C. 20554

RE: Open Internet Docket No. 14-28, Spectrum Incentive Auctions Docket No. 12-268 and Lifeline WC Docket No.11-42

Dear Ms. Dortch:

At the request of the Hispanic Technology and Telecommunications Partnership (HTTP) Martin Chavez, Senior Adviser to HTTP and Rosa Mendoza, Executive Director of HTTP met on Wednesday, May 27, 2015 with Commissioner Michael O’Rielly and Robin C. Colwell, Chief of Staff and Legal Advisor. The group discussed a variety of issues, including the FCC’s Open Internet Order, upcoming spectrum incentive auctions policies for fostering participation from minority-owned business in future auctions and modernizing Lifeline Program to enhance its effectiveness and extend its reach, especially for Latino communities.

HTTP urged the Commission to focus on smart broadband policies that promote Latino adoption, access and engagement without imposing unnecessary burdens.

HTTP encouraged the Commission to ensure that the upcoming spectrum incentive auctions are open and fair. HTTP mentioned that spectrum is needed to be able to deliver critically important services that all Americans rely on and it is essential that spectrum be used to the fullest extent possible, specially to meet the growing demand for mobile services. In addition, HTTP advocated that the Commission foster the participation of Designated Entities (DEs) and mentioned the importance of increased participation from minority-owned businesses, especially those that are owned by Latinos. HTTP made it clear that it does not support multi-billion companies getting multi-billion dollar, taxpayer funded discounts on spectrum by trying to masquerade as a small DE and that HTTP is opposed to further set asides in the upcoming auction. The discussion also ensued

About HTTP:

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on how the DE program needs to be reformed in order to successfully ensure the participation of minority owned businesses and to avoid abuse. HTTP also voiced concerns about set asides of blocks of spectrum for multi-billion companies such as T-Mobile and Sprint, especially when Sprint opted to not participate in previews auctions, both companies have spectrum that they are not fully utilizing and they also have ample spending backing.

HTTP expressed concerns around set asides such as those in the upcoming incentive auctions without specific buildout requirements for rural broadband.

The group also discussed how Lifeline could be updated to support broadband Internet access service and the importance of making it more efficient and finding ways to prevent fraud, waste and abuse. HTTP talked about the disparities in broadband access, by income and in minority communities, which still persist. There was agreement that a modernized Lifeline program that is more efficient and truly aimed at helping those who need it the most is fundamental to help close the digital divide.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin J. Chavez, Senior Advisor, HTTP

Rosa Mendoza, Executive Director, HTTP

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