

Via ECFS

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

Re: EX PARTE NOTICE

GN Docket No. 12-268: *Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions;*

WT Docket No. 12-269: *Policies Regarding Mobile Spectrum Holdings;*

AU Docket No. 14-252: *Comment Sought on Competitive Bidding Procedures for Broadcast Incentive Auction 1000, Including Auctions 1001 and 1002*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On May 27, 2015, Evan Engstrom of Engine; Ira Sockowitz of Learning Games Network; and Paulo Privitera of Pick1 met with Priscilla Delgado Argeris, Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel, to discuss various aspects of the 600 MHz broadcast incentive auction and the other policies to improve competition in the mobile broadband industry.

Engine is a research foundation and advocacy group that supports the growth of technology entrepreneurship through policy analysis, economic research, and advocacy on local and national issues. Part of Engine's mission is to connect startups—like Pick1 and Learning Games Network—with policymakers to allow innovators to personally advocate for pro-innovation policies.

The group explained why startups around the country were interested in promoting competition in mobile broadband. Mr. Privitera and Mr. Sockowitz talked about how the success of their businesses depends on increasing the pool of potential users, and how promoting competition amongst mobile broadband carriers would spur the deployment of mobile broadband infrastructure to serve communities currently lacking adequate connectivity. Bringing more competition to mobile broadband markets would benefit the entire startup economy by increasing broadband speeds and lowering connectivity costs for both consumers and startups.

Mr. Sockowitz described how his business, which produces learning games to help educate students in and out of the classroom, has particular importance for poor and immigrant communities that are disproportionately reliant on mobile broadband as an exclusive means to access the Internet. Increasing competition in mobile broadband markets would provide important benefits for these students in helping to bridge the "homework gap," as competition would drive down prices and increase speeds for mobile broadband connections, making next generation learning technologies accessible to economically disadvantaged students. In rural communities,

where the nearest library or school may be many miles away, having access to affordable mobile connections to access the many learning resources available through startups like Learning Games Network, is increasingly important for educational and economic development.

The group expressed their desire to see the Commission increase the size of the spectrum reserve to at least 40 MHz or half of the auctioned spectrum so as to enable two carriers to compete on relatively even terms with the dominant incumbents, AT&T and Verizon. The group discussed how the current 30 MHz reserve would only permit one new nationwide competitor to obtain a 10x10 block of spectrum, which is increasingly necessary to remain competitive in the provision of mobile broadband.

The group also discussed their support for Commission efforts to increase the amount of unlicensed spectrum available to innovators. Unlicensed uses provide substantial benefit to the economy and the many small startups that are using unlicensed resources to build the growing Internet of Things. The group encouraged the Commission to find new ways to promote spectrum sharing and open up new blocks for unlicensed use, including portions of the 5.9 GHz band.

Sincerely,

/s/ Evan Engstrom

Evan Engstrom
Policy Director
Engine