

June 10, 2015

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

RE: Notice of *Ex Parte* Communication
GN Docket Nos. 12-268, 14-166

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On June 8, 2015, the representatives identified below from the Radio Television Digital News Association, CBS, 21st Century Fox, Viacom, Time Warner, and the National Association of Broadcasters (hereinafter, the “News and Television Production Representatives”) met with Commissioner Michael O’Rielly and Robin Colwell, his Chief of Staff and Legal Advisor, Media, with regard to the above-referenced proceedings. The News and Television Production Representatives addressed the pending petitions for reconsideration of the Incentive Auction Report & Order and the decision in that Order to provide 4 megahertz of exclusive-use spectrum in the duplex gap of the new 600 MHz wireless band to meet the wireless microphone needs of entities covering breaking news. The News and Television Production Representatives reiterated that this allocation would not preserve for news gatherers the same ability they have today to use wireless microphones without risk of interference, and underscored the important role that wireless microphones play in disseminating crucial news and information across all types of media—from broadcast television and radio to online to newspapers to bloggers—particularly in emergency situations where health and safety are at risk.

The News and Production Representatives also expressed concern that the Commission’s recent release on Incentive Auction simulations,¹ which indicates that the FCC plans to place television stations in the so-called “duplex gap,” signals that even the scant 4 megahertz of spectrum designated to meet wireless microphone needs post-incentive auction will be impaired. As a result, the last vestige of dedicated UHF wireless microphone spectrum will disappear with no plan for a short- or long-term home.

The News and Television Production Representatives urged the Commission to: (1) take no action that would impair the spectrum dedicated to licensed wireless microphone use in the duplex gap; and (2) focus immediately on identifying new bands on which wireless microphones may operate for a variety of use cases, including critical television production needs, as well as a known set of always-available, exclusive-use frequencies to accommodate emergency news gathering.

¹ *Incentive Auction Task Force Releases Initial Clearing Target Optimization Simulations*, GN Docket No. 12-268, AU Docket No. 14-252, Public Notice, DA 15-606 (May 20, 2015).

This letter is being submitted electronically in the above-referenced docket, which has been granted permit-but-disclose status, pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's Rules. Should you have any questions concerning this submission, kindly contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Jared S. Sher
Vice President, Associate General
Counsel, 21st Century Fox

/s/

Anne Lucey
Senior Vice President for Regulatory
Policy, CBS

/s/

Kyle Dixon
Vice President, Public Policy
Time Warner, Inc.

/s/

Keith Murphy
Senior Vice President, Government
Relations and Regulatory Counsel
Viacom Inc.

/s/

Robert Weller
Vice President, Spectrum Policy
National Association of Broadcasters

/s/

Kathleen A. Kirby
Counsel
Radio Television Digital News
Association

cc: Commissioner Michael O'Rielly
Robin Caldwell