



July 9, 2015

Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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Hon. Diane Bajoie (LA-retired)
Historian

Ex-Officio
**Sen. Sharon Weston
Broome (LA)**
President Emeritus

Staff
Waikinya Clanton
National Executive Director

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

RE: Incentive Auction: GN Docket No. 12-268; WT Docket No. 12-269; AU Docket No. 14-252

On behalf of the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women (NOBEL Women), whose 251 members serve in the legislatures for a range of states, territories and the District of Columbia, I am writing to express our concern regarding the request of Sprint and T-Mobile for additional set-asides in the upcoming spectrum auction.

Restricting bidding competition through set-asides in the upcoming spectrum auction would provide the Federal Communications Commission with less money to buy back spectrum from broadcasters, jeopardizing the auction and leaving less spectrum to meet consumer demand for mobile broadband.

This will significantly impact communities of color as they over-index on wireless usage, and wireless communications is often their gateway to the Internet for educational, economic, healthcare, and social resources. An April 2015 study by the PEW Research Center, U.S. Smartphone Use in 2015, shows that non-whites, African Americans (12%) and Latinos (13%) are more smartphone dependent for online access when compared to Whites (4%). In addition, low income households with annual incomes of less than \$30,000 per year (13%) are smart-phone dependent for online access when compared to households earning more than \$75,000 per year (1%).

I respectfully urge the Commission to carefully consider the impact of granting additional set-asides for low-income communities and communities of color and reject the request for additional set-asides in the spectrum auction.

Sincerely,

Representative Laura Hall (AL)
National President, NOBEL Women

cc: Hon. Mignon Clyburn
Hon. Ajit Pai
Hon. Michael O'Rielly
Hon. Jessica Rosenworcel