



October 9, 2015

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

Via Electronic Filing

Re: Notice of Ex Parte Communications, ET Docket No. 15-170, RM-11673

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On October 7, 2015, Sarah Morris, Senior Policy Counsel, Laura Moy, Senior Policy Counsel, and Josh King, Lead Technologist, all of New America's Open Technology Institute (OTI), met with several members of the Office of Engineering and Technology, including: Julius Knapp, Bruce Romano, Rashmi Doshi, Axel Rodriguez, Brian Butler, Nicholas Oros, Mark Settle, and Jamison Prime. During that meeting, OTI made the following presentation regarding the Radio Frequency Equipment Authorization Proceeding.

OTI explained that they had significant concerns about unintended effects that the Commission's proposed enhanced certification requirements might have in the wireless development space. In particular, OTI noted that a longstanding project at its organization was a project called Commotion, which is a wireless mesh networking platform that combines open-source firmware with off-the-shelf hardware in order to empower communities to build their own communications infrastructure.

OTI expressed concern that the new requirements would encourage manufacturers to put in place barriers that would prevent the modification or enhancement of an RF-enabled device's software elements, a process commonly referred to as "reflashing," which in turn could block the installation of widely-used and legal firmware such as OpenWrt, DD-WRT, and others. These device operating systems serve as the foundation for many open source, community networking projects, and many of the features necessary to construct community networks using low-cost devices can only be found in innovative open-source firmwares.

Finally, OTI urged the Commission to consider a more targeted approach in efforts to mitigate the risk of harmful interference, and to carefully consider any negative effects

that the current proposal will have on innovation in the wireless space and the development of community broadband initiatives.

Pursuant to the Commission's rules, this notice is being filed in the above-referenced dockets for inclusion in the public record.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sarah Morris

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Cc:

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