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May 16, 2016

Ex Parte

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

Re: Expanding Consumers' Video Navigation Choices, MB Docket No. 16-42; Commercial Availability of Navigation Devices, CS Docket No. 97-80

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On May 12, 2016, Heather McDavitt, Will Johnson, David Young, and Tamara Preiss of Verizon met with the following Commission staff: Scott Jordan, Chief Technologist; Michelle Carey, Nancy Murphy, Mary Beth Murphy, Kathy Berthot, Steven Broecker, Lyle Elder, Martha Heller, and Brendan Murray of the Media Bureau; Paul LaFontaine and Antonio Sweet (by telephone) of the Office of Strategic Planning and Policy; Sherwin Siy of the Wireline Competition Bureau; and John Williams of the Office of General Counsel.

During the meeting, the Verizon representatives responded to staff's questions related to the above-referenced proceeding. In particular, we explained how Verizon obtains guide data from vendors and content providers, and then supplements that with other data to create its Fios interactive media guide. We discussed how provisions in our contracts with content providers affect channel line-ups and "neighborhoods," advertising, and customer entitlements.

We also elaborated on Verizon's experience with "app taxes" imposed by third-party device and platform providers when we seek to place our Fios application on these developers' devices (like a gamebox), on their platforms, or in their app stores (for download on mobile devices). These taxes can take the form of upfront payments for placement on the device or in the app store, additional payment for favorable placement, and/or a cut of all revenues generated by consumers who make purchases (e.g., a video-on-demand movie) through our application.

Finally, we reiterated that competition and technology advances are leading to innovation and increased consumer choice in the video marketplace, and Verizon is committed to ensuring that our customers have the best possible viewing experience, regardless of the source of their desired content or the device they use to view it. The Commission likewise should ensure that its actions in this proceeding advance these goals and avoid unintended consequences that could harm consumers or undermine competition.

Marlene H. Dortch
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This letter is being filed pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules. Should you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Stein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

cc: (via e-mail)

Michelle Carey
Mary Beth Murphy
Nancy Murphy
Kathy Berthot
Steven Broeckaert
Lyle Elder
Martha Heller
Brendan Murray

Scott Jordan
Paul LaFontaine
Antonio Sweet
Sherwin Siy
John Williams