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May 18, 2016

Jon Wilkins, Chief
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 – 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554
E-mail: jon.wilkins@fcc.gov

Re: SAL Spectrum, LLC
Petition for Waiver

Dear Mr. Wilkins:

The Hinsdale Board of County Commissioners supports the petition submitted by Atlantic Tele-Network, Inc. (ATN) and its subsidiary SAL Spectrum, LLC (SAL) seeking a waiver to qualify for the rural service provider bidding credit in the upcoming broadcast incentive auction.

Since the bidding credit is intended to enhance the deployment of competitive and innovative service offerings to consumers in rural areas, ATN/SAL should be afforded the benefit of this bidding credit. In fact, with its proven record of deployment to Hinsdale County, an area where no other carrier was willing to serve – ATN/SAL is the type of a company that should benefit from the bidding credit.

ATN, though its affiliate Commnet Wireless LLC was the first company to provide cell towers in our market. As a result, our residents and businesses have access to service. This allows our citizens to conduct their business effectively and efficiently, and it allows our residents to stay in touch with family, friends and emergency services.

Because of ATN's commitment to serve our market, our local residents have been given the chance to keep pace with the rest of the country. ATN's commitment to serve our market has improved the quality of life for countless individuals and is essential to the economic development of our community. However, to fully take advantage of the opportunities offered in an increasingly wireless world, we encourage you to give ATN the opportunity to acquire more spectrum on fair terms. Denying ATN/SAL access to the rural bidding credit in the 600 MHz auction would not only tie their hands in the auction but it would also deny consumers in rural areas the benefits we have seen in our market.

We are grateful for the connectivity that Commnet Wireless LLC has provided to us. Americans living in rural and underserved parts of the country stand to benefit as we have from other efforts of ATN/SAL.

For these reasons, the Hinsdale Board of County Commissioners encourages the Commission's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau to grant the waiver and extend the rural service provider bidding credit to ATN/SAL.

Thank you for your consideration of our Board recommendation.

Sincerely,

Hinsdale Board of County Commissioners

By:
Cindy Dozier, Chair

cc: Chairman Tom Wheeler, tom.wheeler@fcc.gov
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn, mignon.clyburn@fcc.gov
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel, jessica.rosenworcel@fcc.gov
Commissioner Ajit Pai, ajit.pai@fcc.gov
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