



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

HONORABLE LORENZO C. BATES
SPEAKER, 23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

May 25, 2016

Jon Wilkins
Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 – 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

*Re: SAL Spectrum, LLC
Petition for Waiver*

Dear Mr. Wilkins,

As the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council, I write today to urge the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau to grant the request of Atlantic Tele-Network, Inc. (ATN) and its subsidiary SAL Spectrum, LLC (SAL) for a waiver to enable it to qualify for the rural service provider bidding credit in the upcoming incentive auction.

Considering that the bidding credit is intended to enhance the deployment of competitive and innovative service offerings to consumers in rural areas, ATN should be afforded the benefit of this bidding credit. In fact, with its proven record of deployment to some of the most remote areas in the Navajo reservation – areas where no other carrier was willing to serve – ATN is the prototype of a company that should benefit from the bidding credit.

ATN subsidiary NTUA Wireless, LLC (which is owned 51% by the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority, an enterprise of the Navajo Nation, and 49% by ATN), was the first company to deploy 3G and 4G LTE services to the Navajo Nation Reservation in both Arizona and New Mexico. As we understand it, the LTE deployment on the Navajo Nation was largely facilitated by the tribal lands bidding credit that ATN and SAL were able to obtain in the 700 MHz spectrum auction.

In light of ATN's record of using spectrum obtained with the bidding credit to benefit rural areas like ours, and to the extent rural service providers are offered an advantage in acquiring additional spectrum in the upcoming auction, it would be a serious mistake if ATN were denied that benefit at the upcoming incentive auction. I therefore urge the FCC to grant the waiver that ATN has requested.

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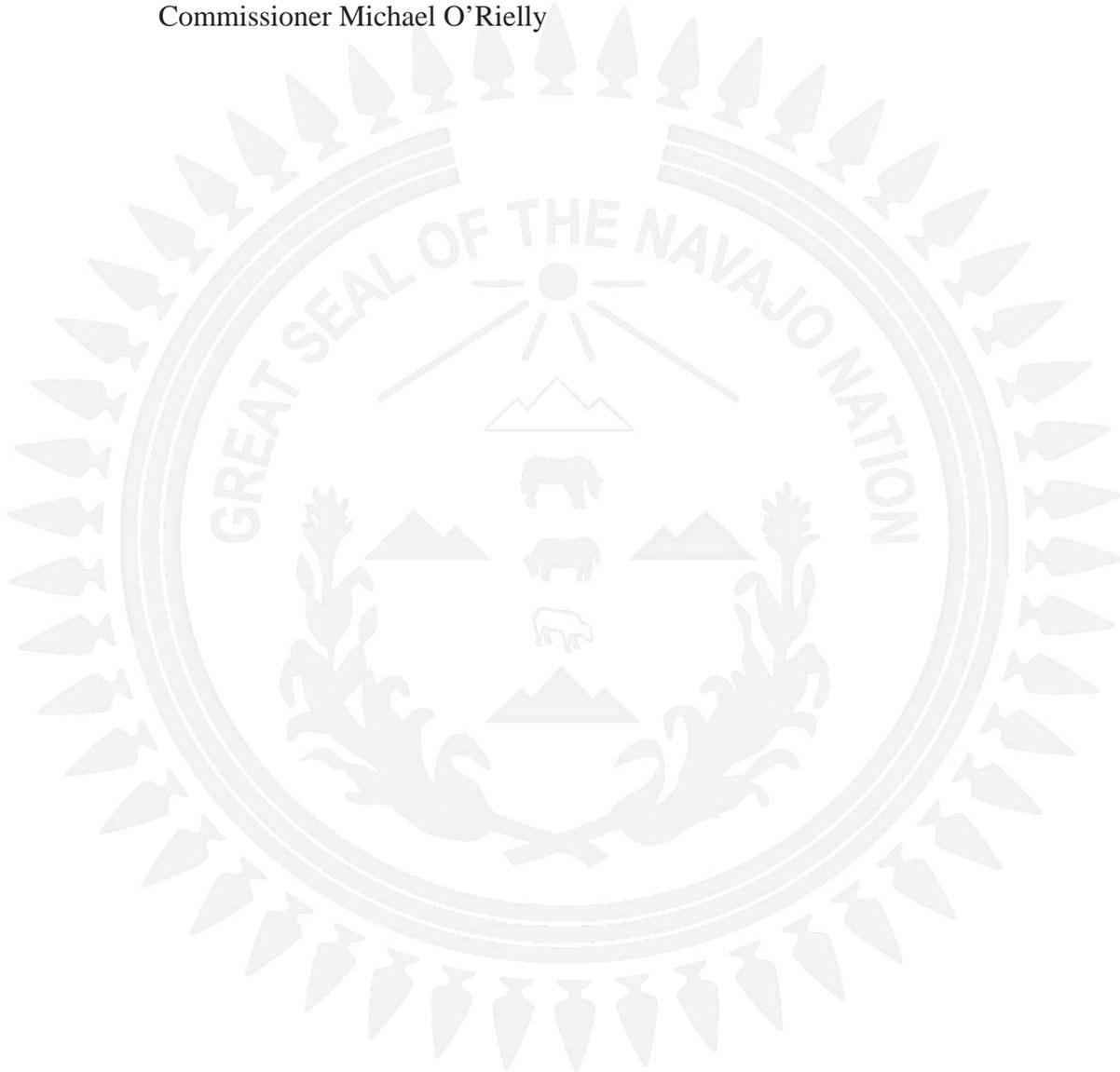
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Sincerely,



LoRenzo Bates, Speaker
23rd Navajo Nation Council

cc: Chairman Tom Wheeler
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner Ajit Pai
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly



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