



Utah Governor's Office *of* Economic Development

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State of Utah

GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

SPENCER J. COX
Lieutenant Governor

Q. VAL HALE
Executive Director

May 31, 2016

Tom Wheeler, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 – 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Atlantic Tele-Network, Inc./SAL Spectrum, LLC
Petition for Waiver
AU Docket No. 14-252
GN Docket No. 12-268
File No. 00071222225

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

I understand that Atlantic Tele-Network, Inc. (ATN) has asked the Federal Communications Commission for a rule waiver in the upcoming auction of low-band licenses. This will enable the company to bid more aggressively and will enhance their competitiveness in the auction. Given our experience with Commnet Wireless, a subsidiary of ATN, and its invaluable service to the state of Utah, I strongly urge the FCC to provide favorable consideration for the waiver.

Utah enjoys a thriving economy and a low unemployment rate. Key to both of these is access to telecommunications services; especially in the more rural parts of our where there is a need for struggling economies. In many of our more remote areas, including tribal lands, wireless networks are an important tool for Utahns to participate in an increasingly digital economy. Utah also boasts some of America's most beautiful natural wonders and recreation spots, where tourists demand continued connectivity.

Commnet Wireless is one industry partner that has taken up the challenge of providing wireless service to rural and underserved areas in our state. In so doing, they have promoted more vibrant rural economies and improved the quality of life for Utah residents and visiting recreationists.

Earlier this year, Commnet Wireless teamed with state and local leaders, along with the Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development, to deploy mobile service for the first time in Grouse Creek, Utah. This small ranching community with approximately 125 residents is accessible only by gravel road. The partnership has provided enhanced public safety access, greater economic opportunities, and the convenience of mobile services for

day-to-day activity. Grouse Creek residents have affirmed that the new service has significantly improved their quality of life. Commnet Wireless also has provided cell service in the Little Sahara area, one of the most rural parts of northwest Utah.

Our positive experience with ATN's commitment to providing service in rural and underserved areas leads me to conclude that ATN should receive favorable consideration of its request. I urge you to promptly grant the rule waiver so this company has the opportunity to expand its services in Utah and elsewhere.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Q. Val Hale", with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Q. Val Hale
Executive Director
Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development