



June 2, 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
AU Docket No. 14-252
GN Docket No. 12-268
File No. 0007122225*

Dear Mr. Wilkins,

I am the President of the National Tribal Telecommunications Association (NTTA), and I write in support of the petition submitted by Atlantic Tele-Network, Inc. (ATN) and its subsidiary SAL Spectrum, LLC (SAL) requesting a waiver to qualify for the rural service provider bidding credit in the 600 MHz Band incentive auction. While NTTA is the national advocate for Tribally-owned communications companies, our efforts are widely focused on improving access to communications service for all Tribal residents.

As we understand it, the rural bidding credit is intended to enhance the deployment of competitive and innovative service offerings to consumers in rural areas. ATN has a proven track record of providing wireless service in rural and Tribal areas, including on the reservations served by NTTA members where, in many instances, other carriers were previously unwilling to serve. In considering ATN's request, the Commission should recognize ATN's consistent commitment to serve rural Tribal areas and ensure that even more rural Americans will be able to benefit from the opportunities enabled by modern wireless networks through ATN's effective participation in the ongoing incentive auction.

The National Broadband Plan specifically identified the challenges associated with providing service in Indian country, noting that many Tribal communities face significant obstacles to the deployment of broadband infrastructure, including "high build-out costs" and "limited financial resources that deter investment by commercial providers." Because of these challenges, NTTA supported the Commission's adoption of the Tribal lands bidding credit, which ATN has used to deploy facilities on Tribal lands. Similarly, NTTA was previously supportive of the efforts to ensure further buildout of wireless networks through the Phase I Tribal Mobility Fund and was pleased that ATN was the recipient of such funding to provide service in New Mexico and Montana.

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