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Donald C. Brittingham
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verizonwireless

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July 28, 2000

RECEIVED

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 - 12th Street, SW
Room: TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Auction of Licenses in the 747-762 and 777-792 MHz Bands
WT Docket No. 99-168

Dear Ms. Salas:

On July 27, 2000, the attached letter was sent to Commissioner Ness regarding the upcoming 700 MH auction. Please include a copy of this ex parte presentation in the record for the above captioned proceeding. If you have any questions, you may call me on (202) 336-7873.



cc: M. Schneider

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Dennis F. Strigl
President & Chief Executive Officer

July 27, 2000

Verizon Wireless
180 Washington Valley Road
Bedminster, New Jersey 07921
Phone 908 306-7666
Fax 908 306-4388

The Honorable Susan Ness
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 - 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Auction of Licenses in the 700 MHz Band

Dear Commissioner Ness:

The FCC is scheduled to begin its 700 MHz auction on September 6, and the registration deadline for this auction is next Tuesday, August 1. I understand that the Commission is considering whether additional delay of this auction is warranted, and that a decision is imminent. Verizon Wireless has joined with others in the industry to seek a delay of this auction until June 2001.

The Commission's attention to this matter is extremely important to my company. Last week, I testified before the House Telecommunications Subcommittee about the need for a delay, and there was strong bi-partisan support from the Subcommittee for such action. I understand that a transcript of that hearing has been provided to your office.

The 700 MHz band represents a great opportunity for wireless carriers to gain access to additional spectrum that is needed to meet the increasing demands of consumers. However, there continues to be considerable uncertainty regarding the future deployment of services in the band and how the upcoming auction will be conducted. Moreover, I understand that rules affecting the future availability of the band have not even been finalized. The Commission has asked for further comment on whether additional measures could be taken to clear this band, but these comments are not due until after the auction has already begun. I applaud the Commission's efforts to promote the early availability of this important spectrum for innovative wireless services like those envisioned by my company. However, proper spectrum management requires that all of these issues be resolved before the Commission proceeds with the auction.

I hope that the Commission will decide to delay the 700 MHz auction. If I can provide any further information that will assist you in reaching a decision, I would be happy to meet with you or speak with you by telephone. Please call me at any time.

Sincerely,

