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Docket No. 99-168
700 MHz

Lowell W. Paxson / Chairman

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September 17, 2001

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
445 - 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners:

On behalf of Paxson Communications Corporation and the Spectrum Clearing Alliance I sincerely thank you for the Order released today in the 700 MHz band clearing proceeding. It gives hope and encouragement to our efforts to clear the band and make the spectrum available for the many new wireless services in this country. Your leadership in addressing the issues raised by the Spectrum Clearing Alliance and your actions on reconsideration have gone a long way to creating the right regulatory and business atmosphere in which band-clearing can be accomplished.

Your staffs and the staffs of the Wireless Bureau and Mass Media Bureau have been tireless in their efforts to work with the Spectrum Clearing Alliance, and all interested parties, in seeking to establish a framework that is truly in the public interest. Your latest Order does just that. We believe that the Spectrum Clearing Alliance will now increase its members and that a critical mass of broadcasters in the Channels 59-69 band can come together to work with the auction bidders and the FCC to accomplish a prompt, efficient and mutually beneficial clearing of the band.

There is, however, one last piece to the puzzle and that is setting a new date for the auction of the upper 700 MHz spectrum. I urge you to set June 15, 2002 as that date and I will explain why.

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First setting a firm date for the auction is of critical importance in order to enlist the largest number of broadcasters and potential auction bidders into the Alliance's comprehensive band-clearing plan. The parties most affected by the auction must know that there is an auction date so that they can begin in earnest their business, engineering and financial planning. Without a firm date, it will be extremely difficult to increase the membership of the Alliance and to successfully encourage the telcos to engage in band-clearing discussions.

Second, we need a date that is workable and June 15, 2002, in my opinion, is just such a workable date. As you know, pre-auction filings begin approximately two months prior to the auction start date so that setting June 15, 2002 as the auction date will really give the parties approximately seven months to initiate band-clearing discussions and finalize band-clearing agreements. We believe that seven months is an appropriate time for the parties to be able to negotiate band-clearing agreements and the Alliance members intend to begin that work today.

Finally, setting the auction at June 15, 2002, will also provide the FCC with sufficient time to begin processing band-clearing requests, petitions and applications and this will be critical to the band-clearing efforts.

I commend you for your past efforts and now urge you to set June 15, 2002 as the auction date so that all the work that has been undertaken so far by the FCC, by broadcasters and by telcos can come to full fruition.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lowell W. Paxson".

Lowell W. Paxson
Chairman
Paxson Communications Corporation