WEBSTER-CALHOUN COOPERATIVE
TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION

GOWRIE, IOWA 50543
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January 31, 2005

Via ECFS Electronic Filing

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Reply Comments of Webster-Calhoun Cooperative Telephone Assn.
ET Docket No. 04-186 and ET Docket No. 02-380
Unlicensed Operation in the TV Broadcast Bands; Additional Spectrum for Unlicensed Devices Below 900 MHz and in the 3 GHz Band

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Webster-Calhoun Cooperative Telephone Assn. is a north-central Iowa rural telephone cooperative and a license holder in the lower 700 MHz band radio service. We wish to file reply comments in the above captioned dockets in support of PVT Networks, Inc. ("PVT"), QUALCOMM Incorporated ("QUALCOMM"), and others who agree with the FCC's tentative decision to preclude unlicensed devices from operating on the 698-806 MHz bands (the 700 MHz bands).

As both PVT and QUALCOMM have pointed out, allowing unlicensed users to access licensed 700 MHz band spectrum creates the potential for harmful interference from a new (and potentially very large) group of users, making it impossible to launch new commercial services in the band.[1] Changing the rules at this stage will eliminate much of the incentive that new 700 MHz licensees have to develop their spectrum and erode the wireless industry's confidence in the FCC's regulations and auction processes.[2] Even proponents of expanding unlicensed use of the TV bands recognize that the 700 MHz bands should be off limits because they have already been reallocated to other services.[3]

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1 *See* Comments of PVT Networks, Inc. ("*PVT Comments*") at p. 1; Comments of QUALCOMM Incorporated ("*Qualcomm Comments*") at p. 3.

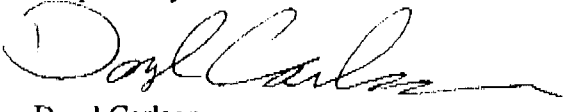
2 *PVT Comments* at p. 2.

3 *See* Comments of Microsoft Corporation ("*Microsoft Comments*") at p. 19.

Moreover, the record in this proceeding reflects widespread concern for the harmful effect that unlicensed devices may have on the DTV transition process, and uncertainty as to the effectiveness of spectrum sharing technologies.[4] In this regard, MSTV and NAB correctly note that if consumers are subjected to harmful interference from unlicensed devices, "[s]uch disruption could easily derail the digital transition, which is currently at a critical juncture in its development.[5]

In short, we believe the Commission made the right decision when it proposed to exclude unlicensed devices from the 700 MHz band to avoid potential sharing difficulties between new uses and unlicensed operations. The considerations that led the Commission to draw this initial conclusion have not changed in the months since the *NPRM* was issued. The FCC should therefore stay the course and not allow any type of unlicensed devices to utilize spectrum that has been reallocated for commercial services or for public safety users in the 700 MHz band. We also believe that the Commission should not permit unlicensed devices to operate on vacant Channels 2-36 or 38-51 until after the DTV transition is complete, and then only if the effectiveness of spectrum sharing technologies can be demonstrated beyond a reasonable doubt.

Respectfully submitted,



Daryl Carlson
General Manager
Webster-Calhoun Cooperative
Telephone Association, Inc.

cc: Mr. Hugh L. Van Tuyl, OET
Mr. Alan Stillwell, OET

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4 *See e.g.*, *Qualcomm Comments* at pp. 6-11; Comments of Association for Maximum Service Television, Inc./National Association of Broadcasters ("*MSTV/NAB Comments*") at pp. 3-6; Comments of Entravision Holdings, LLC ("*Entravision Comments*") at pp. 7-8; Comments of Cox Broadcasting, Inc. ("*Cox Comments*") at pp. 4-7; Comments of Red River Broadcasting Company ("*Red River Comments*"); Comments of Pappas Broadcasting ("*Pappas Comments*") at pp. 6-13; Comments of the Association of Public Television Stations ("*APTS Comments*") at pp. 1-3 .

5 *MSTV/NAB Comments* at pp. 3-4.