

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)

Development of Nationwide Broadband Data)
to Evaluate Reasonable and Timely)
Deployment of Advanced Services to All)
Americans, Improvement of Wireless)
Broadband Subscribership Data, and)
Development of Data on Interconnected)
Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP))
Subscribership)

WC Docket No. 07-38

COMMENTS OF CTIA – THE WIRELESS ASSOCIATION®

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Date: June 15, 2007

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY.....2

II. MOBILE WIRELESS BROADBAND IS INCREASINGLY AVAILABLE TO AMERICAN CONSUMERS2

III. CONSUMERS ARE BENEFITTING FROM THE UNIQUE ATTRIBUTES OF MOBILE WIRELESS BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS.....7

IV. THE FCC’S PROPOSED REPORTING CATEGORIES OVERSIMPLIFY THE WIRELESS BROADBAND MARKET AND ARE UNNECESSARY9

V. PUBLICLY-AVAILABLE INFORMATION AND CURRENT DEFINITIONS OF “HIGH SPEED” AND “ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES” PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT DATA ON SERVICE AVAILABILITY.....13

VI. CONCLUSION17

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COMMENTS OF CTIA – THE WIRELESS ASSOCIATION®

CTIA – The Wireless Association® (“CTIA”)¹ submits the following comments in response to the Federal Communications Commission’s (“Commission” or “FCC”) April 16, 2007 *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* seeking comment on potential changes to the definition of broadband and the Commission’s FCC Form 477, used for collection of information on broadband availability and subscribership.²

¹ CTIA – The Wireless Association® is the international organization of the wireless communications industry for both wireless carriers and manufacturers. Membership in the organization covers Commercial Mobile Radio Service (“CMRS”) providers and manufacturers, including cellular, Advanced Wireless Service, broadband PCS, and ESMR, as well as providers and manufacturers of wireless data services and products.

² In re: Development of Nationwide Broadband Data to Evaluate Reasonable and Timely Deployment of Advanced Services to All Americans, Improvement of Wireless Broadband Subscribership Data, and Development of Data on Interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) Subscribership, *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, WC Docket No. 07-38 (Apr. 16, 2007) (“NPRM”).

I. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

CTIA shares the Commission's goal of ensuring that advanced services are deployed in a reasonable and timely manner. As the FCC has reported, mobile wireless broadband Internet access is the fastest growing segment of the U.S. broadband marketplace. The unique feature of mobility truly brings broadband to the person, where they are located, when they need it.

Thanks to the unique service and pricing characteristics of mobile wireless broadband, consumers have the freedom to take their broadband access with them on-the-go and pay based on their desired usage. Whether wireless broadband is used as a complement to, or a complete substitute for, traditional wireline broadband, is determined by the consumer. There is, however, no doubt that it is broadband service within the FCC's definition, and the FCC does not need complicated and burdensome new reporting requirements to track its consumption by consumers. Existing data collection methods demonstrate what is already so obvious to consumers – the deployment, availability and subscription to wireless broadband Internet access is progressing at a blistering pace.

II. MOBILE WIRELESS BROADBAND IS INCREASINGLY AVAILABLE TO AMERICAN CONSUMERS

CTIA is proud of the success of mobile wireless service providers in the broadband marketplace. Thanks to the Commission's pro-competition broadband policy, there is more facilities-based broadband competition in the U.S. than in any other country. As a result, U.S. consumers have a bevy of broadband access choices.³

³ See Scott Cleland, *America's Unique Internet Success*, Wash. Times (D.C.), Mar. 1, 2007, available at 2007 WLNR 3935270.

While consumers have the option of choosing from a number of broadband access providers that include not only wireless but also cable, traditional telephone, Broadband over Power Line (“BPL”) and other providers, the Commission’s most recent study shows *mobile wireless* broadband additions driving the growth of high speed lines overall. In the first half of 2006, the number of broadband subscribers continued to grow. The Commission’s report on *High-Speed Services for Internet Access: Status as of June 30, 2006* found that while total broadband lines grew 26% from December 2005 to June 2006, almost 60% of all new high-speed lines reported during the same period were mobile broadband wireless lines.⁴ That’s almost eight million new mobile wireless broadband subscribers in just six months. Those consumers are enjoying broadband to the person.

Since the Commission’s release of the *Eleventh Report*, next generation wireless networks have continued to flourish as mobile wireless providers aggressively invest in their networks to upgrade and expand their geographic coverage. Wireless carriers are deploying an array of Third Generation (“3G”) wireless broadband technologies, including: Evolution – Data Only (“EV-DO”), High Speed Downlink Packet Access (“HSDPA”), Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (“UMTS”), Wideband Code Division Multiple Access (“WCDMA”), Wi-Fi, and pursuing Fourth Generation (“4G”) technologies like Wi-MAX, Long Term Evolution (“LTE”), and Ultra Mobile Broadband (“UMB”). Wireless carriers are currently investing in next-generation wireless

⁴ Noting the distribution of broadband subscribers among different technologies (ASDL, SDSL, cable modem, traditional wireline, satellite, fixed wireless, mobile wireless, fiber, and broadband over power line) and calculating a total of 1,323 providers of broadband access, See *High-Speed Services for Internet Access: Status as of June 30, 2006* at Tables 1, 8 at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-270128A1.pdf (Jan. 31, 2007).

infrastructure, and making decisions now on 4G evolution. Companies such as Sprint Nextel and T-Mobile USA have publicly commented on their investments to deploy new high-speed wireless networks. Sprint Nextel pledged to spend more than \$2 billion in building its 4G Wi-MAX network, and T-Mobile stated its intent to spend \$2.7 billion in building its HSDPA network to exploit the spectrum won in last year's Advanced Wireless Services ("AWS") auction.⁵

Carriers continue to enhance their networks, broadening the availability of high-speed service to millions of Americans.⁶ Collectively, wireless companies are providing wireless broadband coverage to more than 200 million Americans in communities across the country. While many in government have questioned the lack of a third pipe to the home, they ignore the many communities throughout the United States in which consumers have three, four, five, or more additional choices in the form of mobile wireless broadband competitors. These consumers at times are spending their finite disposable income on a mobile service for their broadband access. The following is a snapshot of some of CTIA's members' high-speed wireless data service offerings:

- **Alltel:** AccessSM Broadband service (EV-DO) offers speeds of 400-700 kilobits per second (kbps) with maximum speeds of up to 2.4 Mbps.⁷

⁵ See Sprint Nextel News Release, Sprint Nextel Announced 4G Wireless Broadband Initiative with Intel, Motorola and Samsung, at <http://www.2.sprint.com/mr/news-dtl.do?id=12960> (Aug. 8, 2006). See David Janazzo, *et al.*, "T-Mobile USA Read Across: Towers and Roamers", Merrill Lynch (Nov. 9, 2006) (noting T-Mobile spending commitment).

⁶ See Kelly Hill, "AT&T to speed up HSDPA, add dozens of new markets", RCR Wireless News (Apr. 2, 2007).

⁷ See, Press Release, Alltel Extends EV-DO Wireless Broadband to Myrtle Beach, Hilton Head and Several Inland South Carolina Communities at <http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=74159&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=984165&highlight=> (Apr. 12, 2007).

Alltel's Access Broadband service covers more than 44 million pops in over 100 cities.

- **AT&T Mobility/Cingular:** BroadbandConnect (HSDPA) service offers speeds of 400-700 kbps, and serves virtually all of the top 100 markets. AT&T plans to invest more than \$750 million in 2007 to accelerate its global IP solutions to meet the needs of its business customers worldwide.⁸
- **Sprint Nextel:** Sprint Nextel upgraded its EV-DO service in October 2006 to the EV-DO Revision A ("Rev. A") network, which now reaches more than 193 million people in more than 5,400 communities. Rev. A offers upload speeds of 350-500 kbps, and average download speeds of 600 kbps-1.4 mbps (from 400-700 kbps with EV-DO). Sprint plans to roll-out a Wi-Max network by the end of 2007.⁹
- **T-Mobile USA:** Offers mobile Internet access through its General Packet Radio Service ("GPRS")/EDGE network and operates a network of more than 8,000 wireless hotspots. T-Mobile is currently spending \$2.7 billion to deploy its HSDPA network.¹⁰
- **Verizon Wireless:** Based on CDMA EV-DO technology, Verizon is offering speeds of 400-700 kbps.¹¹ In February 2007, Verizon Wireless upgraded to EVDO Rev. A technology, and now covers more than 145 million consumers. BroadbandAccess customers can expect average download speeds of 600 kbps to 1.4 megabits and average upload speeds of 500-800 kbps.¹²

⁸ See Press Release, AT&T To Invest \$750 Million-Plus Globally in 2007 to Speed Advanced Solutions to Business Customers at <http://www.att.com/gen/press-room?pid=4800&cdvn=news&newsarticleid=23522> (Mar. 13, 2007).

⁹ See Press Release, Sprint Nextel Announces 4G Wireless Broadband Initiative with Intel, Motorola and Samsung at http://www2.sprint.com/mr/news_dtl.do?id=12960 (Aug. 8, 2006)

¹⁰ "T-Mobile to Spend \$2.7 Billion to Offer Advanced Services", The New York Times, October 7, 2006.

¹¹ See Verizon Wireless, "Best Wireless Service Provider" at <http://www.vzw-whoware.com/best/leadership.asp> (accessed on May 2, 2007).

¹² See *id.*; see also "Facts About...Verizon Wireless Network" at http://news.vzw.com/pdf/Verizon_Wireless_Press_Kit.pdf (accessed on May 2, 2007).

Deployment of this advanced broadband infrastructure is not limited to nationwide wireless providers. For example, Alaska Communications Systems offers EV-DO-based broadband coverage in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Eagle River, and the Mat-Su Valley in Alaska, providing customers with wireless text and picture messaging and wireless broadband Internet access via its ACS Mobile Broadband offering. Cellular South offers EV-DO coverage in Starkville, Mississippi, and along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, giving Cellular South's subscribers in these markets wireless broadband Internet access. Cellular South specifically targeted the Gulf Coast for EV-DO deployment to help with the recovery from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and in preparation for future natural disasters. Midwest Wireless, Mobile Satellite Ventures, NTELOS, and many others also have deployed mobile wireless broadband services and continue to do so today.¹³

Commercial providers are not the only ones developing advanced wireless data networks. Public safety users are poised to benefit from advances in the wireless space. In New York City, public safety users will benefit from the deployment of a citywide interoperable, wireless broadband network using 10 MHz of spectrum in the 2.5 GHz

¹³ See, e.g., "ACS Mobile Broadband Internet Anyplace" at <http://www.acsalaska.com/Cultures/en-US/Personal/Mobile+Broadband/>; "Wireless Broadband from Cellular South" at <http://www.cellularsouth.com/broadband/>; Wally Northway, *Cellular South opens Technical Operations Center*, 2007 WLNR 7069471 (Mar. 12, 2007); "Bundle the YAK with the unlimited Broadband access at http://www.cellularone.bm/pages/001_2.php?omenu=m00&menu=m001_2; Midwest Wireless, "High-Speed Internet" at <http://www.midwestwireless.com/Home/InternetMore/HighSpeedInternet/Default.htm>; "Mobile Satellite Ventures (MSV) Issued Key Patent in Broadband Multi-Spotbeam Satellite Systems" at <http://www.msvlp.com/media/press-releases-view.cfm?id=74>; *Mobile Satellite Ventures to offer satellite-based broadband*, 2007 WLNR 7220775 (Apr. 6, 2007); "Why share your bandwidth with all your neighbors?" at <http://www.ntelos.com/landline/residential/broadband.html>.

band.¹⁴ Public safety users in the National Capital Region will also benefit from the development of a regional broadband wireless network in Washington, DC and surrounding areas. The National Capital Region's network is being deployed on 2.5 MHz of spectrum within the existing 700 MHz public safety allocation, using commercial EV-DO technology.¹⁵

III. CONSUMERS ARE BENEFITTING FROM THE UNIQUE ATTRIBUTES OF MOBILE WIRELESS BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS

Mobile wireless broadband delivers unique advantages to its customers. Mobile wireless broadband Internet access is not a third pipe to the *home*, it's a third pipe to *the person*, wherever they are when they want Internet access. Unlike traditional wireline Internet access, wireless consumers are freed from their tether by the unique benefit of mobility – an aspect consumers have shown is important to them. Like the market for mobile wireless voice services, consumers are increasingly voting with their telecommunications dollars for mobile wireless broadband. As noted, *supra*, the FCC's most recent report on the status of high-speed Internet access service, nearly 60% of all new broadband subscriptions in the first half of 2006 were mobile wireless¹⁶ – and those

¹⁴ See *The 700 MHz Auction: Public Safety and Competition: Hearing Before the Senate Commerce Committee*, 110th Cong. (2007) (statement of Paul Cosgrave, Commissioner, New York City Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications) available at http://commerce.senate.gov/public/_files/Testimony_PaulCosgrave_CosgraveTestimonySenateCommerceJun14072.pdf.

¹⁵ *Request by the National Capital Region for Waiver of the Commission's Rules to Allow Establishment of a 700 MHz Interoperable Broadband Data Network*, WT Docket No. 96-86, Order, DA 07-454 (rel. Jan. 31, 2007).

¹⁶ See *High-Speed Services for Internet Access: Status as of June 30, 2006* at Tables 1, 8 at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-270128A1.pdf (Jan. 31, 2007).

figures are nearly a year old. Since that time, carriers have invested billions of dollars improving wireless broadband coverage and speeds throughout their networks to win consumers in this highly competitive market.

Mobile wireless broadband consumers also benefit from unique service choices. Thanks in part to carriers' ability to use discounts to incent consumers to purchase handsets with advanced capabilities, the majority of consumer handsets are now broadband ready. Consumers need not contact their carrier to receive and install special equipment to access the Internet. They simply open their browser and enjoy wireless broadband service free from wires. Additionally, wireless consumers have a number of options for Internet access. Consumers requiring less data can choose to subscribe to metered broadband, paying for either a bucket of bits – similar to voice plan pricing – or simply paying for the bits they use.¹⁷ This option enables consumers to tailor their wireless service plans to their broadband needs. Like wireline broadband offerings, wireless broadband customers also have the choice of subscribing to “all you can eat” broadband offerings either on a month-to-month basis or under longer term contracts providing discounted recurring and non-recurring fees.

Through innovative service features and plans, wireless carriers are bringing additional competition to the broadband marketplace and offering American consumers unique new ways to stay connected to information.

¹⁷ See, e.g., “Mobile Broadband Connection Plans,” Sprint/Nextel, *available at* <http://nextelonline.nextel.com/NASApp/onlinestore/en/Action/SubmitRegionAction> (last accessed June 13, 2007); *see also* “Data Cell Phone Plans,” AT&T, *available at* <http://www.wireless.att.com/cell-phone-service/cell-phone-plans/data-cell-phone-plans.jsp> (last accessed June 13, 2007).

IV. THE FCC'S PROPOSED REPORTING CATEGORIES OVERSIMPLIFY THE WIRELESS BROADBAND MARKET AND ARE UNNECESSARY

CTIA opposes unnecessary new reporting requirements aimed exclusively at wireless carriers. The NPRM proposes to shoehorn wireless broadband users into one of three arbitrary categories: (1) Consumers with month-to-month contracts for data on devices with “full Internet browsing” (*e.g.*, laptops and personal digital assistants); (2) Consumers with month-to-month contracts for data from “customized-for-mobile websites;” and (3) “[U]nique mobile voice service subscribers who are not month-to-month (or longer term) subscribers to an Internet access service... but who nevertheless made *any* news, music, video, or other entertainment downloads to the subscriber’s handset *at broadband speed* during the month preceding the Form 477 reporting date....”¹⁸ It is unclear what policy goal this proposal is intended to achieve. Without a clear policy benefit, the Commission should reject imposition of this reporting burden. Attempts to fit wireless broadband subscribers into discrete categories not only overlooks the benefits of month-to-month and metered Internet use plans, but also mischaracterizes wireless broadband technology and may likely result in double and even triple counting of wireless subscribers who routinely utilize services from multiple categories, and thus negate the Commission’s goals in this proceeding.

First, as stated above, consumers are benefiting from the unique characteristics of mobile wireless broadband Internet access. The ability to take their mobile Internet access on shorter terms – or on a metered use basis – allows consumers the freedom to determine the best values for the broadband dollar. The changes to FCC Form 477 that are proposed in the NPRM imply that mobile wireless broadband users who do not

¹⁸ NPRM at ¶ 13-14 (emphasis in original).

subscribe to a month-to-month (or longer) data service contract should be counted as lesser broadband users. A policy of omitting those consumers unwilling or unable to commit to a monthly contract or package would not accurately capture the number of wireless broadband users. Some of these users may be attracted to the convenience and features supported by usage-based and/or pre-paid service offerings, but their usage may be as intense or as important as consumers who have subscribed to monthly plans. Even casual users derive a benefit from mobile wireless broadband Internet access and therefore should be given equal reporting status to other subscriber categories.

Second, the Commission's characterization of wireless broadband users as fitting into three distinct categories oversimplifies wireless broadband technology and the wireless marketplace. The first category, "full Internet browsing," seems designed to account for those subscribers who have committed to longer term data contracts, for large amounts of bandwidth, using either CMRS aircards or personal digital assistants ("PDAs"). However, these are not the only wireless broadband subscribers who are using the full Internet. Simply because the form factor is smaller, does not necessarily mean that the content is any less rich. Often times, what is seen and read on a wireless screen is no different than what would be read on a desktop or laptop computer. Further, consumers with handsets ordinarily unable to receive full size web pages, because of hardware and software constraints of their handset, may be using the handset as a wireless modem to attach their laptop to the Internet. This use, called "tethering," allows the desktop or laptop to use the handset's CMRS connection to connect the Internet. Some manufacturers, such as Motorola, offer software for their phones that allow them to

be used in such a manner.¹⁹ For those without a manufacturer provided solution, a thriving community of wireless enthusiasts populate online message boards with step-by-step instructions for using many handsets as modems.²⁰ This category would also fail to capture any user who has a PDA but does not subscribe to a monthly data plan.

The second category, “mobile web browsing,” also presents definitional problems. It is unclear whether this category is meant to capture so-called “walled garden” Internet access or if it is meant to address Internet users who access pages specifically written to work on smaller handset screens. Placing those mobile wireless broadband subscribers who use their handsets to access the Internet in a separate category marginalizes the benefit consumers gain from mobile access to their data. CTIA does not understand the public policy rationale for treating each of these uses differently by predetermining that the experience under one is different than the experience using the other. For example, aircard users who access their GMail account on-the-go should be not be counted differently than handset users who access the same GMail account through a page designed to accommodate a smaller screen size. Under the proposed changes, those consumers apparently would be counted differently for accessing the same content. Moreover, wireless consumers commonly can use their wireless device for both “full Internet browsing” and “mobile web browsing” which will require carriers to “double report” a single subscriber on Form 477.

¹⁹ “Phone Tools 4,” Motorola, *available at* <http://www.store.motorola.com/mot/en/US/adirect/motorola;jsessionid=1A609E4C347430810AFE7946ED2BA259.mot4?cmd=catProductDetail> (last accessed June 13, 2007).

²⁰ *See* HowardForums, *at* <http://www.howardforums.com> (last accessed June 13, 2007).

The final category the NPRM contemplates is users who have downloaded anything, at broadband speeds, during the month preceding the Form 477 reporting date. As discussed above, the Commission's data collection should not count pre-paid and low-volume wireless broadband users either as lesser broadband customers or differently from how low-volume wireline broadband users are counted. Such a policy would produce a distorted picture of the broadband marketplace.

Third, the Commission's proposed definitions for wireless broadband Internet access ignore a growing segment of the broadband market – Wi-Fi. Both fixed and mobile Wi-Fi services are a growing segment of the market that complete the broadband picture. Wi-Fi service serves – in different incarnations – as a complement to wireline service, a complement to wireless service, and as a complete broadband solution for consumers, especially those with devices and service plans that support converged technologies.

Finally, CTIA is concerned that the Commission has singled out mobile wireless providers for its proposed reporting of broadband service tiers. Just as mobile wireless has been the service of choice for voice communications, mobile wireless may very well become the service of choice for broadband connectivity. Even today, many people use a mobile broadband connection far more often than they utilize a wireline broadband connection. Moreover, just as some mobile wireless broadband subscribers use their connectivity more intensively than others, some wireline broadband subscribers use their connectivity more intensively than others. Intended or otherwise, the Commission must ensure that its reporting requirements – which necessarily inform policy-making – do not favor one technology platform over another. To that end, mobile wireless providers

should not be singled out for more burdensome reporting requirements, especially those that will undoubtedly be used to diminish the value of mobile wireless broadband connectivity.

In sum, the wireless industry offers a number of innovative broadband offerings. These new and innovative offerings – which are growing in their scope over time – are enabling more Americans to both bridge the digital divide and to do so on their terms. The Commission should ensure these new mobile wireless users are counted equally and the efforts of carriers to meet the expectations of the market are not overlooked.

V. PUBLICLY-AVAILABLE INFORMATION AND CURRENT DEFINITIONS OF “HIGH SPEED” AND “ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES” PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT DATA ON SERVICE AVAILABILITY

CTIA believes that the baseline definition of broadband service should be maintained in order to ensure that the FCC may continue to compile a full picture of the advanced telecommunications capabilities available to American consumers. In its *Fourth Report*, the Commission used the term “advanced telecommunications service” to describe services and facilities that provide transmission speeds above 200 kbps both upstream and downstream.²¹ The Commission also used “high-speed” to describe services that are only capable of 200 kbps in one direction.²² Changing these definitions will distort measurements of the marketplace by ignoring the continued importance of “first generation” wireless broadband services.

²¹ *In re: Inquiry Concerning the Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Capability to All American in a Reasonable and Timely Fashion, and Possible Steps to Accelerate Such Deployment Pursuant to Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996*, GN Docket No. 04-54, Fourth Report to Congress, 19 FCC Rcd 20540, 20551 (2004).

²² *Id.*

Consumer demand for faster speeds and greater capacity are driving carrier investment. As described above, wireless carriers are investing substantial sums to bring better network coverage and faster speeds to their customers. While carriers may deploy “Next Generation” wireless broadband networks in the markets and areas where they can bring faster speeds and the benefits of wireless broadband service to the greatest number of customers, a redefinition of broadband service by the Commission would overlook the importance of existing 3G wireless technologies to bring high-speed access to underserved areas.

There is still significant consumer benefit at the lower end of the broadband speed continuum. Carrier investment in broadband technologies has brought wireless data – and in some cases the only broadband service – to parts of rural America that would otherwise not see investment. Services available from those carriers who employ 3G technologies like EDGE – that provide maximum downlink speeds of 384 kbps – are far and away better than dial-up and other alternatives due both to the speed of the offering, and its mobility. This level of service provides access to the overwhelming majority of broadband uses in the United States. Raising the minimum speed for “broadband” service does nothing to help bring faster data access to underserved areas and would fail to count consumer use of some wireless broadband offerings.

Rather than raise the minimum speeds that are considered “high-speed,” the Commission should consider a tiered definition. Speeds that meet the existing threshold for “high-speed” and “advanced telecommunications services” are important first steps for mobile wireless broadband service and may fully meet the needs of many broadband customers. However, gathering data on higher speed services will provide a more

accurate picture of the broadband marketplace. A tiered definition with 200 kbps as the floor of a first tier will adequately balance the Commission's desire for more accurate broadband data with the reality of broadband speeds.

The Commission also asks for comment on the collection of data describing the availability of broadband service. Rather than changing the existing reporting requirement for broadband, CTIA suggests the Commission use the information carriers already have placed in the public record through their Internet web sites. Many carriers – including all of the Tier 1 carriers – already provide both existing and prospective customers with access to detailed digital coverage maps on their website.²³ This format will allow the FCC, or any other agency, federal or state, to manipulate the data into a 9-digit ZIP code format, census tract, or any other format that is determined useful. This approach minimizes confusion for consumers between the information they receive from companies about their coverage and the information they receive from the government. In order to serve mobile customers, the wireless industry provides wireless broadband to areas that don't receive mail and locations where ZIP codes have little meaning.

Moreover, the May 17, 2007 hearing on this issue conducted by the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet of the U.S. House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee developed a lengthy record describing why postal zip codes are not a useful reporting format for many who need to

²³ See, e.g., <http://www.cingular.com/coverageviewer/>;
http://www1.sprintpcs.com/explore/coverage/CoverageInfo.jsp?ATR_ExtraOne=UHP_Personal_Coverage; <http://www.t-mobile.com/coverage/>;
[http://www.verizonwireless.com/b2c/CoverageLocatorController?requesttype=NEWREQ
UEST](http://www.verizonwireless.com/b2c/CoverageLocatorController?requesttype=NEWREQUEST)

use this data.²⁴ The digitized coverage maps carriers provide on their websites will permit the broad use of customized geographic areas based on latitude and longitude, as well as avoid the reporting lag endemic in any data collection effort. Eliminating reporting lag is particularly important in this context, given carriers' aggressive build-out of next generation wireless broadband networks.

²⁴ See http://energycommerce.house.gov/cmte_mtgs/110-ti-hrg.051707 (See, in particular, testimony of Mr. George Ford, Chief Economist and Editorial Advisory Board Member, Phoenix Center for Advanced Legal and Economic Public Policy Studies).

VI. CONCLUSION

The mobile wireless broadband industry has seen explosive growth, due in large part to unique service offerings and the unparalleled benefit of mobility. Mobile wireless broadband, like mobile voice, is a distinctly unique service that warrants full credit for the benefits it delivers to consumers. The Commission should not impose additional reporting obligations that either shoehorn mobile broadband wireless subscribers into definitions crafted for a wireline broadband world or differentiate wireless in a way that overlooks its obvious benefits to consumers.

Respectfully submitted,

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