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June 4, 2008

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Service Rules for Advanced Wireless Services in the 2155-2175 MHz Band (WT Docket No. 07-195) (AWS-3);

Service Rules for Advanced Wireless Services in the 1915-1920 MHz, 1995-2000 MHz, 2020-2025 MHz and 2175-2180 MHz Bands (WT Docket No. 04-356)(AWS-2)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

In an *ex parte* letter filed yesterday, June 3, 2008, a group of small and rural companies referred to as the Rural Broadband Group, expressed their strong objection to the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC” or “Commission”) plan to issue an order in the above-referenced proceedings consolidating certain AWS-2 and AWS-3 spectrum and requiring the licensee of such spectrum to provide “free,” nationwide broadband service. The companies listed on Attachment 1, hereto, by their attorneys, concur with and adopt the views expressed in the June 3rd letter, and are hereby included in the Rural Broadband Group (“Rural Carriers”).

As expressed in the letter, the Rural Carriers oppose the plan because it will afford no opportunity, or at most, extremely limited opportunity, for small and rural companies to acquire AWS-2 and AWS-3 spectrum. Rather than consolidating AWS-2 and AWS-3 spectrum into a single 25 MHz block and licensing it on a nationwide basis, the Commission should maximize the number of licenses available, as mandated by Section 309(j) of the Act, as amended. The results of the 700 MHz auction confirm the high demand for licenses auctioned in multiple blocks and small geographic service areas.

The Rural Carriers also oppose the plan to mandate that the AWS-3 licensee provide “free” broadband service. Such a plan, however well intentioned, will only hamper broadband deployment by destabilizing the marketplace and deterring investment in rural broadband systems. How will a small or rural company acquire funding to deploy a system if it faces the prospect of competing with a nationwide carrier providing free service heavily subsidized with

cheap spectrum? Rather than crafting rules to require one specific business model, the Commission should auction AWS spectrum under flexible use rules. By auctioning the spectrum without “designer encumbrances,” and by doing so in multiple blocks over small geographic areas, the Commission will allow the marketplace to decide the best use of the spectrum, and ultimately, will foster the deployment of innovative broadband services.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Gregory W. Whiteaker

Gregory W. Whiteaker

Attachment

cc (via email):

Chairman Martin

Commissioner McDowell

Commissioner Adelstein

Commissioner Copps

Commissioner Tate

Aaron Goldberger

Angela Giancarlo

Renee Crittendon

Bruce Gottlieb

Wayne Leighton

Attachment 1

Additional Members of the Rural Broadband Group

Calaveras Telephone Company

Cellular 29 Plus

CGKC&H No. 2 Rural Cellular Limited Partnership

C T Cube L.P. d/b/a West Central Wireless

Five Star Wireless

Grand River Communications, Inc.

Hemingford Coop Telephone Company

Lyrix Wireless

KanOkla Telephone Association

Mobius Communications Company

Siskiyou Telephone Company