

Before the  
**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**  
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of )  
 )  
Applications of Sprint Nextel Corp. and )  
Clearwire Corporation for Consent to ) WT Docket No. 08-94  
Transfer Control of 2.5 GHz Licenses )  
and Authorizations )  
 )  
File Nos. 0003462540, *et al.* )

To: Marlene Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission

**SUPPORTING COMMENTS OF MISSISSIPPI AUTHORITY FOR  
EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION**

The Mississippi Authority for Educational Television (d/b/a Mississippi Public Broadcasting) files these comments in support of the proposed transaction between Sprint Nextel Corporation (Sprint Nextel) and Clearwire Corporation (Clearwire) to create New Clearwire Corporation (New Clearwire). MAET is the Mississippi state agency which operates the broadcast public television and public radio networks in the state. It is also the licensee of eleven Educational Broadband Service (EBS) stations throughout the state of Mississippi. Working through the Mississippi EdNet Institute (EDNET), a not-for-profit corporation, MAET in 2006 entered into long-term de facto leases with Clearwire for all of its stations. MAET believes the creation and funding of New Clearwire as proposed in the applications before the Commission will promote the public interest and benefit Educational Broadband Service (EBS) licensees across the country, including those in the state of Mississippi.

First, MAET believes that New Clearwire will accelerate the deployment of the first nationwide mobile WiMAX broadband network creating a unique opportunity to deliver new broadband products and services in the 2.5 GHz band that will dramatically enhance the way that EBS Licensee's students, faculty and surrounding community access the Internet – combining mobility and speed, with access anytime and anywhere, whether at home, at school or on the road.

As the operator of two state-wide broadcasting networks and an extensive digital microwave interconnection system, and a licensee in the 2.5 GHz band since 1992, MAET well understands the challenges faced in the buildout and deployment of systems in the band. MAET and EDNET have previously had excess capacity agreements with commercial companies who failed to acquire the needed capital to fully develop systems they envisioned. MAET fully supports the proposed development by New Clearwire of a nationwide advanced mobile broadband network, and looks forward to its state-wide EBS licenses becoming part of that network. MAET expects that such development will enable it to finally obtain the full benefits of 2.5 GHz-based advanced wireless broadband services to further its educational mission. MAET further believes the State of Mississippi will also benefit generally from development of an additional broadband competitor.

In particular, MAET has initiated discussions with current Clearwire management regarding MAET's efforts to advance early childhood learning through its partnership with WGBH in Boston and Sirius Thinking, LTD. and the production of the award-winning educational television program, "Between the

Lions.” Leveraging these production assets, and with financial assistance from the Barksdale Reading Institute, WGBH in Boston and the Early Childhood Institute, MAET and Mississippi State University partnered to conduct a research based project called the “Between the Lions Preschool Literacy Initiative.” The project focuses on providing early reading preschool literacy and language activities for 3, 4, & 5 year olds in child care centers. Child care providers are provided on-site mentoring and modeling of how to use “Between the Lions” episodes to instill in children a joy of reading, books, and exciting ways to learn the alphabet sounds.

MAET has been working to further advance educational activities within day care centers through the development of a specialized internet-connected set-top box that will give daycare providers additional resources and assistance in completing these learning and literacy activities. MAET believes the current internet connectivity available will be greatly enhanced through the WiMAX infrastructure to be constructed by New Clearwire, and looks forward to working with New Clearwire on further technical enhancements to these specialized set-top boxes.

MAET also has extensive experience in providing critical information to the public during emergencies. The MAET broadcast systems cover not only the entire state of Mississippi with either radio or television, but also reaches into south Louisiana, southern Alabama (including Mobile), portions of the Tennessee-Mississippi state line, and part of northwest Florida. This unique coverage area makes the MAET infrastructure an essential, and sometimes the

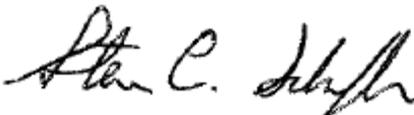
only, means of information as people prepare for and evacuate from a wide part of the Gulf Coast in the face of hurricanes. MAET played a critical role during the evacuations of Hurricane Ivan in 2005 and Hurricane Katrina in 2006.

Based on this extensive experience, MAET has initiated discussions with present Clearwire management regarding the potential for building out the WiMAX infrastructure within some of the more critical areas of the state, possibly in conjunction with other Mississippi agencies and interests. MAET is confident that New Clearwire will continue these discussions.

However, it is obvious that New Clearwire must have the scale and resources proposed in the applications before the Commission in order for it to build out a national network as well as to meet its obligations to the many EBS spectrum licensees from which it leases spectrum. MAET understands that the transactions described in the applications before the Commission will enable New Clearwire to receive essential capital funding--\$3.2 billion--necessary to build and operate its system, and that neither Sprint Nextel nor Clearwire alone possesses sufficient financial or spectrum resources to deploy alone. Accordingly, MAET urges the Commission to expeditiously approve the applications and permit New Clearwire to move forward with deployment of the 2.5 GHz nationwide mobile WiMAX network that will enable EBS licensees and their surrounding communities to obtain the substantial public interest and educational benefits from a nationwide mobile WiMAX network in the 2.5 GHz band.

Respectfully submitted,

MISSISSIPPI AUTHORITY FOR  
EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION

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