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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

October 21, 2008

**Ex Parte**

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

*Re: Unlicensed Operation in the TV Broadcast Bands  
ET Docket Nos. 04-186, 02-380*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On October 20, 2008, William (Bill) H. Gates, Chairman of Microsoft Corp., spoke separately via telephone with Chairman Martin and Commissioner Copps regarding the television white spaces proceeding. During these meetings, Mr. Gates commended the Commission for all the work it has done in the white spaces proceeding, and for seeking to adopt final white spaces rules at its November meeting. Mr. Gates observed that adopting the flexible operating rules advocated by the White Spaces Coalition is essential in enabling white space devices that will provide affordable broadband opportunities and create new markets for innovative applications and services. Mr. Gates also emphasized the need to conclude this proceeding on November 4th to allow companies to begin the process of bringing the benefits of white spaces to consumers.

Pursuant to the Commission's rules, a copy of this notice is being filed electronically in the above-referenced dockets. If you require any additional information please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edmond J. Thomas", written over a circular scribble.

Edmond J. Thomas  
Senior Technology Policy Advisor

cc: Chairman Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Michael Copps