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Ex Parte

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Reexamination of Roaming Obligations of Commercial Mobile Radio Services Providers, WT Docket No. 05-265

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On January 14, 2011, Tamara Preiss of Verizon and John Scott and Andy Lachance of Verizon Wireless met with the following Wireless Telecommunications Bureau staff: Ruth Milkman, Chief; Jim Schlichting, Senior Deputy Chief; and Nese Guendelsberger, Chief, and Peter Trachtenberg, Deputy Chief, Spectrum and Competition Policy Division, to discuss issues being considered in the Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the above-captioned proceeding.

In the meeting, Verizon Wireless reiterated that parties advocating a data roaming requirement have failed to prove that market forces are not working to ensure that data roaming agreements are negotiated among carriers that desire such agreements. Verizon Wireless updated the evidence it previously filed showing that it continues to enter into data roaming agreements, including agreements for broadband 3G data roaming. In addition, in response to claims made by RCA arguing that its members are not able to negotiate data roaming agreements with Verizon Wireless,¹ Verizon Wireless presented evidence about the many roaming agreements it has with carriers known to be RCA members. In particular, the company stated:

- Verizon Wireless has 65 active roaming partners, 47 of which are RCA members.
- About one fourth of its active roaming partners either have not requested data roaming or made initial inquiries but then stopped actively seeking data roaming. Of the 47 active RCA member roaming partners, about 20 percent are not actively seeking a data roaming agreement.

¹ Letter from Rebecca Murphy Thompson, RCA, and Caressa D. Bennet, RTG, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WT Docket No. 05-265, filed November 12, 2010 (“RCA/RTG Letter”).

- Of the roaming partners that want data roaming, about 85 percent have an agreement, and most of the others are in discussions with Verizon Wireless towards an agreement. This percentage is the same for RCA members.
- Since its last update in early November 2010, Verizon Wireless entered into agreements to provide EVDO data roaming to 9 additional roaming partners, eight of whom are RCA members. Over 60 percent of our data roaming agreements are now for EV-DO. Among RCA members that have data roaming agreements with Verizon Wireless, almost 70 percent have EV-DO agreements. Several other roaming partners, including several RCA members, have projects under way to implement EV-DO roaming with Verizon Wireless.

These *facts* – as opposed to the argument and innuendo offered by data roaming proponents -- demonstrate that market forces are more than sufficient to ensure that carriers that want data roaming agreements, including data roaming agreements for broadband services, are able to enter into such agreements. For these reasons and those stated previously in Verizon Wireless' Comments and Reply Comments, we made clear that advocates of regulation have failed to establish any market failure for the FCC to remedy through data roaming mandates.

This letter is being filed electronically pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's Rules. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Stein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

cc: Ruth Milkman
Jim Schlichting
Nese Guendelsberger
Peter Trachtenberg