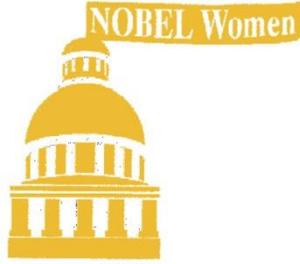


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Of
Black Elected Legislative Women



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National President

February 21, 2012

Hon. Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

RE: Applications of Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless, and SpectrumCo, LLC to assign 122 Advanced Wireless Services (AWS) licenses to Verizon Wireless from SpectrumCo. (WT Docket 12-4)

The National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women (NOBEL Women), which is comprised of 235 members of state legislatures in 39 states, respectfully expresses its support for Commission approval of the above-referenced applications by SpectrumCo, LLC and Verizon Wireless.

Women and Broadband Adoption

Last year, NOBEL Women collaborated with the National Foundation for Women Legislators to produce a report titled *Winning the Future: A Policy Framework for Empowering Women with Broadband*.¹ In our report, we detailed the ways women use broadband as well as the various opportunities it can afford them. We highlighted the ways women use broadband to continue their education, find and secure employment, launch home and broadband-based businesses, research health issues, and enhance family and community engagement

¹ See National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women and National Foundation of Women Legislators, [Winning the Future: A Policy Framework for Empowering Women with Broadband](http://www.womenlegislators.org/library/2011_NFWL_and_NOBEL_Women_Joint_Broadband_Policy_Report-Winning_the_Future_FINAL.pdf) (2011), available at [http://www.womenlegislators.org/library/2011_NFWL and NOBEL Women Joint Broadband Policy Report-Winning the Future FINAL.pdf](http://www.womenlegislators.org/library/2011_NFWL_and_NOBEL_Women_Joint_Broadband_Policy_Report-Winning_the_Future_FINAL.pdf) (last visited February 20, 2012).

In order for women, their families and their communities to continue to reap the full range of benefits enabled by broadband, policymakers at every level of government must address the looming spectrum crisis by making additional spectrum resources available to wireless service providers.

Impact of Spectrum Exhaust on Communities of Color

While we commend President Obama and Congress for authorizing the Federal Communications Commission to conduct spectrum incentive auctions, it's clear that demand for spectrum is growing so quickly that even freeing up spectrum through the use of incentive auctions won't be sufficient to meet the need. This raises the specter of what is being referred to as "spectrum exhaust" – particularly in major markets, which, unfortunately, may also lead to higher prices or reduced quality of service due to demand for scarce spectrum.

In this light, the overwhelmingly critical fact emerging from these applications is that the seller was unable to deploy this spectrum, while unquestionably the buyer is ready, willing and able to put it to good use right away. That should be the decisional element of the Commission's evaluation of these applications. Consumers, especially women and people of color, need this spectrum deployed immediately so that they can fully participate in the nation's digital economy. The applications should be approved posthaste.

Sincerely,



Hon. Sharon Weston Broome (Senator, Louisiana)
President

cc: Hon. Robert McDowell
Hon. Mignon Clyburn
WT Docket No. 12-4 (by ECFS)
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