

February 27th, 2012

Honorable Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington D.C. 20554

To the FCC:

According to some reports in the news it sounds like the FCC might be considering approval of the Verizon Wireless SpectrumCo and Cox spectrum transactions. The reasoning is due to spectrum scarcity that is the lack of available spectrum and the recent inability of the FCC to conduct voluntary incentive auctions (now solved with passage of the Middle Class Tax Relief & Job Creation Act of 2012) the FCC might allow the transaction so these unused spectrum licenses held by cable companies can actually be utilized by a wireless service provider. Furthermore, the fact that the FCC awarded these spectrum licenses in a prior auction to the cable companies (Comcast, Cox, Time Warner Cable) involved in this transaction who then chose to sit on or warehouse the spectrum till now rather than building wireless networks of their own to compete with the established wireless carriers might be further incentive to approve the transactions. The reasoning is since these cable companies bought this spectrum but chose not to use it to build out their own wireless networks and since this deal would give more spectrum to an established wireless carrier which claims to need more spectrum it would be beneficial to

allow the transaction to occur. However, the spectrum concentration that will occur is not in the public interest.

Verizon Wireless is already the largest mobile service provider in the U.S. with the maximum number of spectrum licenses. What's more the anti-competitive marketing agreements the carrier has struck with major cable companies in the cable cartel make this a disastrous deal for consumers. Who wins if this deal proceeds? The companies involved benefit from an anti-competitive business arrangement and so does Wall Street which has suggested Verizon abandon the land-line telecommunications business. However, consumers lose out with telecoms and cable companies no longer competing they are likely to face higher prices, fewer choices and lower quality service going forward. That is why denial is necessary for this disastrous deal. Spectrum concentration by two big companies results in less available spectrum for smaller carriers and therefore threatens competition in the wireless market.

Sincerely,

Mr. Maneesh Pangasa

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