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July 23, 2012

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

JUL 24 2012

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Re: *MB Docket No. 11-154 (Implementation of the Twenty-First Communications Video Accessibility Act ("CVAA")); ET Docket Nos. 02-380 and 04-186 (Unlicensed Operation in the TV Broadcast Bands and Additional Spectrum for Unlicensed Devices Below 900 MHz and in the 3 GHz Band); WC Docket No. 05-122 and GN Docket No. 09-51 (USF Contribution Methodology Reform); PS Docket No. 10-255, CC Docket No. 94-102, WC Docket No. 05-196, PS Docket No. 07-114 (Next Generation 911 Deployment and MLTS 911 Location)*

On July 19, 2012, Fred Humphries, Vice President of Microsoft Corporation and the undersigned met with Commissioner Pai and his Legal Advisor Courtney Reinhard to review the company's products and services and discuss a number of issues of interest to Microsoft before the Commission.

We explained in connection with the "white spaces" proceeding that Microsoft and other IT companies identified early on the need for additional licensed and unlicensed spectrum to address what they perceived as the rapidly growing demand for wireless connectivity, and they explained how the Commission's rules on white spaces helped address that need. They also explained that the growth in demand for wireless data over the next several years will exceed substantially the growth we have seen so far. They noted that expert projections indicate that by 2015 more traffic will travel over unlicensed networks than wireline networks, there will be 100 billion connected devices by 2020, and 95 percent of connections will be technologies using unlicensed spectrum. To meet this demand, the parties stressed that the Commission needs to make additional spectrum available for both licensed and unlicensed uses. The parties added that as the Commission develops spectrum policies, it should bear in mind the important role that unlicensed spectrum is playing in meeting the consumers' needs for wireless connectivity.

In connection with the Next Generation 911 proceedings, the parties discussed the challenge in providing over-the-top text messages to 911 operators, and the parties reviewed the myriad products and services that Microsoft offers to users in enterprise settings. The parties also discussed that over-the-top voice and text offerings present a particular challenge in meeting location requirements since the services are nomadic in nature. Finally, the parties explained that many over-the-top services are offered at no cost to the user, and so the imposition of costly requirements could adversely affect the business model of these offerings.

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The parties discussed the Commission's proceeding to reform and modernize how Universal Service Fund contributions are accessed and recovered, and we expressed support for a connections approach as the best method to accomplish the Commission's goal while not distorting the market or harming innovation. The parties also expressed support for the petitions filed by the Digital Media Association seeking a temporary exemption from the closed captioning requirements of the Commission's rules implementing the CVAA, and for the exemption request filed by Electronic Software Association seeking exemptions for the gaming industry from the Commission advanced communications services requirements.

Lastly, the parties expressed support for the bipartisan role the Commission was taking towards the World Conference on International Telecommunications-2012. Concerns remain as to what steps the WCIT may take on a number of issues affecting the operation of the Internet but the strong, bipartisan leadership from the FCC and others in the Administration and Congress will be critically important to the outcome.

Please direct any questions to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Paula Boyd

cc: Commissioner Pai
Ms. Courtney Reinhard

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