

Friday, May 24th, 2013

**Before the Federal Communication Commission
Washington, DC. 20554**

**RE: Docket
Auction 902 Tribal Mobility Fund Phase 1**

With respect to comments filed by the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of the Chippewa Indians, The Lac Du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians is responding and submits that its interest in obtaining full advanced wireless coverage of tribal lands and ceded territory, pursuing an ETC designation, and becoming a tribal wireless carrier so that our communities' needs and expectations are met. Where the big wireless companies have failed to meet our expectations of full coverage, we want to succeed and bring wireless to all corners of our tribal lands, and ceded territories. Carriers such as Verizon, have provided to the state, documentation of coverage areas that say they have full coverage throughout northern and central Wisconsin, yet there are dead zones, dropped call locations, and areas of no signal that are quite abundant as evidenced by the Engineering study (Access Engineering).

Pre-auction spectrum access requirements are obstacles to tribal participation, who are searching to provide a telecommunication service to unserved areas within the tribal lands and ceded territory. This brings us back to the falsehood of major carriers that claim they have network coverage in almost every territory within our tribal lands and ceded territory. Furthermore, any policy that defines and dictates that the tribe's area of territory is limited to just tribal reservation boundaries, is respectfully wrong. Our tribe, Lac du Flambeau Lake Superior Band of Chippewa, considers its area of Indian territory as those defined by our treaties, as well as in our Tribal Constitution, which includes the ceded lands of northern Wisconsin, as well as parts of Minnesota and Michigan.

The Tribe also wishes to pursue access to spectrum over tribal ceded lands, specifically the areas the tribe considers to serve. Tribes should have been informed, consulted and notified of spectrum auctions of that adversely affected their ability to participate in any mobility of telecom service programs. The task of becoming an ETC, and having no or limited access to

spectrum would be pointless, and hinder our progress to provide wireless in our area. Any policy that prevents bids from the Tribes, solely because spectrum access should not be included in the procedures for the auction. This gives major carriers an unfair advantage over tribes, who mainly want to look out for the best interest of their communities. In addition to this, the Lac du Flambeau tribe has invested over \$130,000 to train and prepare members to fill the need for an employee base and project sustainability. We know what we need, how to get there, and what challenges that are unique to tribal communities.

The tribe wants to fully participate and provide equitable, reasonable coverage and service throughout its territory, and are developing the infrastructure to do so. Unlike major carriers that currently state they “Serve” the area, we are motivated to ensure the Northwood’s regional needs are met.

MIIGWETCH

Signed:

Richard Allen

Richard Allen – Tribal Member & Tribal Broadband Apprentice-Lac du Flambeau

Judd Sosseur

Judd Sosseur- Tribal Member & Tribal Broadband Apprentice-Lac du Flambeau