

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)
)
Amendment of Parts 1, 2, 22, 24, 27, 90 and 95 of) WT Docket No. 10-4
the Commission's Rules to Improve Wireless)
Coverage Through the Use of Signal Boosters)

PARTIAL OPPOSITION OF VERIZON WIRELESS

Verizon Wireless hereby opposes in part the Petition for Clarification and/or Reconsideration filed by the Enterprise Wireless Alliance (“EWA”).¹ In its Petition, EWA seeks to delay the deadline for registering consumer boosters to November 1, 2014, to modify the consumer and class B signal booster registration requirement to establish standardized registration information, and that the Commission create a database listing consumer signal boosters that meet the new network protection standards for consumer boosters.

While Verizon Wireless understands that some enterprise customers may have needs and special circumstances with respect to registering existing consumer boosters, those needs and circumstances do not justify delaying the date by which existing consumer boosters must be registered or eliminating carrier flexibility with respect to the information collected when boosters are registered. Rather, those needs can be addressed by the FCC on a case-by-case basis

¹ Enterprise Wireless Alliance Petition for Clarification and/or Reconsideration, WT Docket No. 10-4, filed May 13, 2013 (“EWA Petition.”). The EWA is a trade association representing business enterprises, wireless sales and service providers, hardware and software system vendors, and technology manufacturers. *Id.* at 2.

and by some clarification of the registration information requirements. Verizon Wireless would not object to the creation of a FCC database indicating which consumer boosters meet the consumer booster protection standards, but it believes EWA may have over-stated the need for such a database.

I. THE FCC SHOULD NOT DELAY THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTERING CONSUMER SIGNAL BOOSTERS.

EWA asks the Commission to delay the deadline for registering consumer signal boosters from March 1, 2014 until November 1, 2014. It seeks this change (1) to align the consumer booster registration requirement with the date for registering class B signal boosters; (2) to eliminate possible confusion over when consumer signal boosters must be registered; and (3) to alleviate concerns that enterprise customers with large amounts of signal boosters that may be embedded in fleet vehicles may have difficulty complying with the current March 1, 2014 registration deadline.² In particular, EWA is concerned that carriers consenting to the use of consumer signal boosters may establish registration mechanisms at any time prior to March 1, 2014, thus starting the 90-day registration window sooner than March 1, 2014.³ Customers with large fleets of embedded boosters, they argue, may have difficulty inventorying and registering their boosters, particularly if the 90-day registration window starts well in advance of March 1, 2014.⁴

² *Id.* at 3-6.

³ *See Amendment of Parts 1, 2, 22, 24, 27, 90 and 95 of the Commission's Rules to Improve Wireless Coverage Through the Use of Signal Boosters*, Report and Order, 28 FCC Rcd 1663 (2013) (“Booster Order”), at paras 106 and 129 (requiring carriers consenting to the use of consumer signal boosters on their networks to establish registration mechanisms by March 14, 2014, and requiring existing consumer boosters to be registered within 90 days of being notified of the registration process).

⁴ EWA Petition at 4-6.

Verizon Wireless opposes any delay in the registration deadlines for consumer signal boosters. The registration deadline is beneficial to booster operators because the Commission has made clear that operating a consumer signal booster without carrier consent is unlawful.⁵ The registration process will likely be the way in which operators of existing consumer boosters obtain carrier consent to operate such boosters.⁶ Thus, the registration process will enable customers to ensure they are operating existing consumer boosters in accordance with Commission rules. Registration is beneficial to carriers because having a database of consumer signal boosters operating on a carrier's network will assist carriers in tracking down and addressing incidents of harmful interference. These incidents are more likely to occur with existing consumer boosters that were manufactured prior to adoption of the consumer booster protection standards in the Booster Order. Because registration provides important benefits both to consumers and carriers, the registration deadline should not be delayed.

Although EWA's concerns about the ability of enterprise customers with embedded consumer boosters are speculative and based in part on carriers establishing registration mechanisms well in advance of March 1, 2014, Verizon Wireless recognizes that some enterprise customers may have difficulty registering large numbers of existing consumer boosters by the end of the 90-day window. However, rather than amending the rule to push back the registration deadline for all consumer boosters, the Commission should entertain requests to waive the 90-day registration deadline on a case-by-case basis for entities requesting a waiver due to special circumstances. Verizon Wireless would be willing to work with such customers to get their

⁵ Booster Order at para. 25 (“Under the regulatory framework we adopt today, a subscriber must have the consent of a wireless provider to operate a Consumer Signal Booster.”) *See also* 47 C.F.R. § 20.21 (a)(1).

⁶ *See* Booster Order at para. 129.

boosters registered and expects that waiver requests would be granted if good cause could be shown.

II. THE FCC SHOULD NOT STANDARDIZE BOOSTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION, BUT VERIZON WIRELESS WOULD SUPPORT CERTAIN CLARIFICATIONS TO ASSIST ENTERPRISE CUSTOMER BOOSTER REGISTRATIONS.

EWA asks the Commission to standardize the registration information that must be provided by subscribers in registering consumer signal boosters. That information, it states, should be the minimum data required under the Commission's rules, except for the date of initial operation.⁷ It argues that non-uniform information requirements will place a hardship on entities with large numbers of existing consumer boosters who may have to conduct inventories of existing boosters and may have boosters operating on multiple carrier networks. It is concerned that carriers may subsequently change their registration mechanism to request additional data, thus possibly creating the need for enterprise customers to re-inventory their fleets. It argues, further, that the in-service date may not be known for existing consumer boosters.⁸

While Verizon Wireless understands the concerns raised by EWA with respect to large fleet owners, it does not agree with EWA's proposed solution. A carrier consenting to the use of consumer signal boosters may want to use the registration process to collect information about the use of consumer boosters to enable the carrier to better track down boosters that cause interference or to better serve their customers' needs. Accordingly, the rules should continue to allow carriers flexibility in determining the nature of the information to be collected. That said, Verizon Wireless would support some clarification of the registration requirement to address

⁷ See 47 C.F.R. § 20.21(h).

⁸ EWA Petition at 6-7.

EWA's concerns. In particular, the Commission could amend the requirement to state: (1) that the in-service date for existing consumer boosters can be estimated if the exact date is not known; (2) that once a consumer booster is registered it does not need to be re-registered if the carrier subsequently changes its registration information requirements; and (3) that no carrier may reject a consumer booster registration on the basis of failing to provide registration information beyond the minimum information required in the Commission's rules.

III. VERIZON DOES NOT OPPOSE EWA'S REQUEST FOR A COMMISSION DATABASE OF APPROVED CONSUMER SIGNAL BOOSTERS.

EWA asks the Commission to establish a database of consumer signal boosters that meet the network protection standards adopted in the Booster Order similar to that established for wireless microphones operating in the 700 MHz band. It claims that since many carriers have indicated their voluntary consent to allow customers to operate consumer boosters that meet the network protection standards, a database of FCC-approved consumer boosters is needed to alleviate customer confusion over which boosters meet those standards.⁹ Verizon Wireless notes that consumer boosters that meet the new network protection standards will contain labels informing consumers about the registration requirement and operating requirements,¹⁰ and Commission rules will prohibit the sale of non-conforming boosters after March 1, 2014.¹¹ Accordingly, consumers will not likely have any significant difficulty in identifying consumer boosters that meet the network protection standards. Nevertheless, a Commission database

⁹ *Id.* at 7-8.

¹⁰ *See* 47 C.F.R. § 20.21(f).

¹¹ *See* 47 C.F.R. § 20.21(g).

might be useful to some consumers and Verizon Wireless would not oppose the Commission creating such a database for that reason.

IV. CONCLUSION

Verizon Wireless opposes EWA's requests to delay the registration deadline for consumer signal boosters and to standardize the information required for registration. The Commission's waiver process is available for entities that can demonstrate good cause for an extension. Verizon Wireless, however, would not oppose some clarification of the information requirement to address EWA's concerns. Verizon Wireless does not oppose EWA's request that the Commission establish a database of consumer boosters that meet the new network protection standards.

Respectfully submitted,

VERIZON WIRELESS

By: /s/ John T. Scott, III
John T. Scott, III
Andre J. Lachance
VERIZON
1300 I Street, N.W.
Suite 400-West
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 515-2412

Attorneys for Verizon Wireless

Michael E. Glover
Of Counsel

Dated: June 21, 2013

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Andre J. Lachance, hereby certify that on June 21, 2013, I electronically filed the foregoing Opposition to the Petition for Clarification and/or Reconsideration filed by Enterprise Wireless Alliance in WT Docket No. 10-4 and that copies were sent via electronic mail to:

Mark E. Crosby
President/CEO
Enterprise Wireless Alliance
8484 Westpark Drive, Suite 630
McLean, Virginia 22102
mark.crosby@enterprisewireless.org

Elizabeth R. Sachs
Lukas, Nace, Gutierrez & Sachs, LLP
8300 Greensboro Drive, Ste. 1200
McLean, VA 22102
lsachs@fcclaw.com

/s/ Andre J. Lachance