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

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2013	)	MD Docket No. 13-140
	)	
Procedures for Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees	)	MD Docket No. 12-201
	)	
	)	MD Docket No. 08-65
Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2008	)	
	)	

REPLY COMMENTS OF VERIZON AND VERIZON WIRELESS

The Commission should be cognizant of the magnitude of the regulatory fees at issue and the burdens that they ultimately impose on consumers. To that end, Verizon and Verizon Wireless[1] agree with commenters that the Commission should promptly address the excess regulatory fees it has collected. As USTelecom points out, the total amount of excess fees collected by the Commission will rise to $83 million this year.[2] The Commission should request that Congress take appropriate action to allow the Commission to use this funding to reduce a single year's fee assessment or return the money to regulated entities.

In addition, the Commission should reject the proposal to combine the Wireline Competition Bureau with the Wireless Competition Bureau for regulatory fee purposes.[3] As

[1] In addition to Verizon Wireless, the Verizon companies participating in this filing are the regulated, wholly owned subsidiaries of Verizon Communications Inc.

[2] *See* USTelecom Comments at 9 (adding the $17 million excess from FY13 to the already collected $66 million); *see also* CTIA Comments at 14.

[3] *See Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2013*; *Procedures for Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees*; *Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees*

AT&T and CTIA observe, the two bureaus address numerous issues that have nothing to do with the other.[4] For instance, in recent years, the Wireless Competition Bureau has dealt with the following issues that are not relevant to wireline providers: tower siting and small cell deployment; spectrum rules; leases and transfers of control of spectrum licenses; Wireless Competition Reports; wireless signals boosters; license renewals; and device interoperability and handset exclusivity. Even when there may be issues that overlap, such as numbering, employees of both bureaus work together on those issues. As a result, there is no evidence that wireline providers are subsidizing wireless providers as some commenters claim.[5]

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for Fiscal Year 2008, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, MD Docket Nos. 13-140, 12-201 & 08-65, ¶ 12 (May 23, 2013).

[4] *See* AT&T Comments at 3-4; CTIA Comments at 8.

[5] *See* ITTA Comments at 8. ITTA's comparison of wireline and wireless per user regulatory fees, *id.*, misses the point. The number of subscribers to a particular service is not directly correlated to the amount of Commission regulation over – or the number of Commission FTEs devoted to – that service. *See* Competitive Carriers Association Comments at 5-6 ("[T]he growth of the wireless industry is an inappropriate factor for the Commission to consider in setting regulatory fees.").

Respectfully submitted,

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