



August 1, 2013

Marlene H. Dortch, Esq.
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: *Ex Parte Letter via Electronic Filing*

- WC Docket No. 13-184: Modernizing the E-rate Program for Schools and Libraries
- GN Docket No. 12-268: Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions
- GN Docket No. 09-51: A National Broadband Plan for Our Future
- MB Docket No. 09-182: 2010 Quadrennial Regulatory Review – Review of the Commission’s Broadcast Ownership Rules and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996
- MB Docket No. 07-294: Promoting Diversification of Ownership in the Broadcasting Services

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This ex parte letter reports on a July 31, 2013 meeting with Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel. Present from the Joint Center were Joseph Miller, Deputy Director and Senior Policy Counsel, Media and Technology Institute, and myself. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain information as to the Commission’s research needs and identify ways the Joint Center might assist the Commission and broader policy community in developing an evidentiary record to inform key proceedings.

Specifically, we discussed potential opportunities for research as the Commission designs the wireless incentive auctions. The Joint Center is especially interested in the integral role of wireless in minorities’ ability to access the Internet. We also discussed the potential for research to identify unintended consequences to minority media ownership inasmuch as low power TV stations would go off the air to accommodate demand for wireless spectrum.

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Also discussed was the potential of e-learning applications and platforms to reduce academic achievement gaps, especially in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects. The Joint Center is particularly interested in studying the impact of these technologies on educational outcomes, and the extent to which a modernized E-rate support framework is essential for all students to be able to benefit from them both in school and at home.

The Joint Center offers ample resources across its institutes, including its largest institute—the Health Policy Institute—to provide research to support rulemakings affecting the provision of telemedicine applications and platforms as well as “aging in place” environments. During our meeting with Commissioner Rosenworcel, we also discussed the potential for clinical trials to inform the ways in which broadband policy, including broadband policy on the state and local levels, can be responsive to patients’ cultural and language needs.

We also discussed potential opportunities for research in the media ownership diversity proceeding. The Joint Center offers its resources both as a research institution and convener to assist the policy community in identifying a reliable approach for assessing minority and female media ownership.

Finally, we discussed the potential for research in the context of public safety, disaster preparedness, and the Emergency Alert System. We specifically considered the inefficacy of predictive models based on past weather conditions and the need for models that are more effective at mitigating and responding to natural disasters.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Hampton

Kirsten Hampton
Chief Operating Officer
Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies

cc (via email): Chairwoman Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel