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CBASmall Business Development, Inc.

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www.CBAWorks.org *** www.CBATechWorks.org

“Sustaining Communities By Building One Business at a Time”

March 14, 2014

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

Re: WT 14-17 and the Cricket 700 MHz wireless license

Dear FCC:

Chatham Business Association SBDI (“CBA”) is an organization formed forty-two years ago to ensure the social, political and economic growth within Chatham, and surrounding communities. Over the years, we have worked closely with major financial institutions, corporations, local business and civic leaders to spearhead economic development in our most vulnerable neighborhoods, and where the majority of our members have their business operations. The principle objective of CBA is to facilitate business development among our membership and throughout the communities we serve. We provide technical support and a wide array of business-related services to ensure that new and existing businesses have the tools and resources to succeed.

CBA recognizes the important role small business plays in the United States big economy, which is one of many contestants in a highly competitive global business environment. National competitive advantage has never been more important to the U.S. We need full participation of all small and minority owned businesses in the U.S. economy. Here in Chicago, we are excited that so many of our local business owners and operators continue to contribute to our economic recovery and build our nation’s future so we are able to compete in a global marketplace. Chicago is a region with many thriving neighborhoods. However, our growth to become the third largest city in the United States has not come without its challenges.

With more than 10 million people, over 4 million employees and 270,000 businesses, it’s easy to understand why our market is so constrained when it comes to available spectrum to fuel our wireless telecommunications infrastructure. As the agency charged with freeing up more spectrum for mobile broadband use, we wish to applaud the Commission’s efforts but also suggest you promptly approve the Cricket request to unlock the significant public and commercial benefits that quality spectrum can unleash in our region. Since we are so densely populated, there is no doubt that use of the license would certainly allow wireless broadband to be more rapidly deployed in our market.

We take a lot of pride in the fact that we are a tight-knit community of businesses and residents, and we seek out opportunities to advocate on behalf of both. Small businesses throughout Chicago drive our local economic engine, and we sincerely believe that approval of this waiver request to use these 700 MHz frequencies would be a positive step in continuing to provide our members with the tools they need to be successful. With a looming spectrum crisis here in Chicago, where congestion during peak times can render smartphones nearly useless, we strongly support FCC action to bring this unused spectrum online as quickly as possible.

We appreciate your consideration of our views and thank you for your time. CBA stands ready to work with Federal Communications Commission, city, county and state leaders to work on initiatives that help revitalize the area’s business climate. I can be reached at 773.994.5006, extension 1002 or via email at MelindaKelly@CBAWorks.org.

Sincerely,
Melinda Kelly
Executive Director