

These Comments are filed in support of the Petition filed by Mimosa Networks, Inc. (Mimosa) urging the Commission to initiate a rulemaking proceeding to make spectrum in the 10.0-10.5 GHz band available for wireless broadband services.

Three main reasons support initiating a rulemaking proceeding. First, spectrum suitable for wireless broadband is in short supply, while the use of wireless broadband continues to accelerate and expand. As Chairman Wheeler pointed out in a recent blog, [i]f we do not free up more airwaves for mobile broadband, demand for spectrum will eventually exceed the supply. Precisely for that reason, the Commission should be diligent in seeking new ways to open up spectrum for broadband services.

Second, the specific approach proposed by Mimosa warrants consideration in a rulemaking proceeding. As Mimosa explains in its Petition, several factors support opening up the 10.0-10.5 GHz band on a shared basis for broadband services, enabling wireless broadband service providers to use the spectrum for long-distance, high-capacity links. For example, attenuation due to rain-fading effects is only a relatively moderate problem in the band.

While Mimosa notes that interference issues would need to be addressed because the band is currently allocated for radar operations and for amateur radio use, a rulemaking proceeding will provide an effective forum for exploring these issues and working out solutions. The presence of interference issues should not serve as a bar to the Commission initiating a rulemaking.

And, third, consumers (especially those in rural areas) and wireless Internet service providers (WISPs) would benefit from making the 10.0-10.5 GHz band available for broadband services. WISPs serve more than 3 million customers, many of whom live in rural areas where access to wired broadband is limited or non-existent. Making more spectrum available for the delivery of broadband will benefit consumers by giving them access to competitive services.