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May 26, 2020

EX PARTE PRESENTATION

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Petition for Rulemaking to Permit MVDDS Use of the 12.2-12.7 GHz Band for Two-Way Mobile Broadband Service, RM-11768

Dear Chairman Pai:

The undersigned group of diverse stakeholders respectfully submit their support for the Commission to take action on the petition for rulemaking (Petition) filed by the MVDDS Coalition to unleash 500 MHz of new 5G-ready spectrum in the 12.2-12.7 GHz band (the “12 GHz Band”).¹ Prompt action on this long-pending Petition will support the Commission’s goal of identifying and unleashing additional spectrum for the development of 5G wireless technologies. We believe that now is the time to consider the Petition and, through that rulemaking, address any interference concerns stakeholders may have by allowing this spectrum to be available for two-way, mobile and fixed 5G wireless broadband services.

As the Commission has recently noted, demand for wireless broadband services and for radio spectrum continues to grow dramatically. With the coming communications shift to 5G and consumers’ increasing demand for faster and more reliable wireless services, it is essential to make additional spectrum available for commercial use. We believe it is imperative for the Commission to continue to look for opportunities to ensure that America remains the global leader in the wireless industry.

We are encouraged by the Commission’s recent efforts to expand commercial use in mid-band spectrum. However, we urge the Commission to consider the possibility of allowing spectrum in the 12.2-12.7 GHz band to be used for two-way, mobile and fixed 5G wireless broadband services. This is

¹ See MVDDS 5G Coalition Petition for Rulemaking to Permit MVDDS Use of the 12.2-12.7 GHz Band for Two-Way Mobile Broadband Service, RM-11768 (filed Apr. 26, 2016)

500 megahertz of contiguous, mid-band spectrum that offers significant propagation advantages over mmWave spectrum. Additionally, we understand that increasing current power limitations in the band and allowing two-way use would result in little or no disruption to existing co-primary operations. The lack of federal encumbrances in the band creates a clear path for bringing this spectrum to market quickly and efficiently.

The current technical rules for 12.2-12.7 GHz are obsolete and burdensome, preventing use of this spectrum for 5G wireless services. Given the changes in technology since these rules were first set by the Commission in 2002, maintaining these restrictions appears to be unwarranted. If two-way, 5G wireless broadband services were allowed, initial use cases would include fixed broadband, mobile 5G services to handsets and street level Internet of Things opportunities. Seeking comment on approaches for expanding flexible and more intensive uses of the band without causing harmful interference to incumbent operations holds the promise of substantial economic gains for the United States in the form of new investment, new jobs, and new consumer services.

We respectfully request that the Commission move forward and issue a notice of proposed rulemaking as soon as possible to consider making this spectrum available for two-way, mobile and fixed 5G wireless broadband services. By granting flexibility in this band, the Commission could more than double the nationwide mid-band spectrum available for 5G mobile and fixed broadband deployment and further close the digital divide.

Respectfully submitted,

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