



Computer & Communications Industry Association

1972-2012: 40 YEARS OF TECH ADVOCACY

July 17, 2012

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

Re: WT Docket No. 12-4, *Application of Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless and SpectrumCo, LLC for Consent to Assign Licenses; Application of Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless and Cox TMI Wireless, LLC for Consent to Assign Licenses*

Dear Ms. Dortch

Since its establishment forty years ago, The Computer & Communications Industry Association (“CCIA”) has advocated for fair and open competition in the computer, telecommunications, and Internet industries. In that tradition, CCIA writes to support the recent letters filed in this docket by ITTA, Frontier Communications, and Windstream Communications and strongly urges the Commission and the Department of Justice to fully consider potential effects of the extensive Commercial Agreements that accompany the proposed spectrum transactions.¹

CCIA agrees with ITTA that “the pending spectrum transactions are integrally bound up with the expansive business arrangements embodied in the agency, resale, and joint operating agreements filed in this proceeding by the Applicants.”² Like ITTA, CCIA believes “[t]he pending transactions threaten significant harm to the public interest by foreclosing competition among broadband network operators,” and “significantly advances the consolidation of wireless and wired services, reducing the likelihood of inter-modal competition and increasing barriers to entry for

¹ See WT Docket No. 12-4, Letter from Genevieve Morelli, President, ITTA, and Micah M. Caldwell, Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, ITTA, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission (July 10, 2012); Letter from Kathleen Q. Abernathy, Executive Vice President, External Affairs, Frontier Communications, and Eric N. Einhorn, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs, Windstream Communications, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission (July 10, 2012).

² WT Docket No. 12-4, Letter from Genevieve Morelli, President, ITTA, and Micah M. Caldwell, Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, ITTA, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, at 1 (July 10, 2012);

stand-alone wired and wireless providers.”³ In these increasingly concentrated and lopsided markets with asymmetrical competition at best, Sprint is the first line of defense against a mobile broadband duopoly and the ITTA companies are the first line of defense against a residential landline monopoly.

Without appropriate conditions mandating nondiscriminatory WiFi and backhaul connections, the proposed Commercial Agreements between Verizon Wireless and its partners will stifle competition, harm consumers, and disserve the public interest in both the wired and mobile broadband markets. CCIA strongly urges the Commission and the Department of Justice to take the positions expressed in ITTA’s letter under careful advisement and to take any actions necessary to prevent the competitive and public interest harms posed by the proposed transaction.

Sincerely,



Catherine R. Sloan
Vice President, Government Relations
CCIA

cc: Joseph Wayland, Acting Assistant Attorney General

³ *Id.* at 3.