



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
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June 24, 2023

The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel
Chairwoman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairwoman Rosenworcel:

As you know, ending the digital divide and connecting more Latinos to high-speed broadband are top priorities of Hispanic Federation. Broadband equity has been one of our major programmatic and policy objectives for some time. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has made the need for broadband connectivity even more acute for the Latino community than it was before. The National Skills Coalition now reports that an astounding 92% of jobs require digital skills but those skills are unlikely to be acquired in a household that lacks broadband access.

Hispanic Federation views the increase in broadband connectivity to be a national imperative. For that reason, we have strongly supported the Commission's efforts to promote the Affordable Connectivity Program and to conduct spectrum auctions to increase wireless broadband access. In addition, we strongly support the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program and Digital Equity Program.

It is with these priorities in mind, that I am reaching out to request that the Commission grant T-Mobile access to the 2.5 GHz licenses it won in the auction last September. This spectrum is an important part of the company's efforts to roll out their wireless home internet service which we believe can help unserved and underserved households gain broadband access and lower prices through increased competition. We are concerned that the longer it takes to issue those licenses, the longer communities will have to wait for the critical broadband coverage that this spectrum will provide.

We understand that you agree with us on this point, because the Commission indicated that much of the 2.5 GHz spectrum that was auctioned was in rural areas that would benefit from the additional wireless service. In addition, rural communities in Puerto Rico and the rural South—priority areas for Hispanic Federation—will benefit once the new services using this spectrum are deployed.

We recognize that the Commission's authority to conduct spectrum auctions has now lapsed and we are urging members of Congress to restore this authority as soon as possible for all the reasons listed above. Yet by issuing licenses to T-Mobile now, the Commission would not be holding any new spectrum auctions. Rather, it would be issuing licenses T-Mobile has already purchased for an auction that ended last summer.



The Communications Act does not prohibit the FCC from following through on granting license applications that were submitted – and reviewed by Commission staff – prior to the expiration of its authority to hold new spectrum auctions. Rather, the Communications Act encourages the FCC to review license applications and determine whether granting them would serve the public interest. In the case of T-Mobile’s license application, granting the application will benefit the public interest and provide access to new and improved services to underserved consumers.

Chairwoman Rosenworcel, your strong leadership and long-standing efforts to close the digital divide are a defining part of your work at the FCC and we hope that you can find a way to put this new spectrum to work for our communities as soon as possible. If the Commission decides it cannot yet issue the 2.5 GHz licenses to T-Mobile permanently without additional Congressional action, we urge you to allow T-Mobile to provide service under Special Temporary Authority to these communities until auction authority is restored by Congress.

We appreciate your consideration of this matter and stand ready to assist the Commission in its goal of bringing broadband to every American, especially to those in the rural and low-income communities we represent.

Sincerely,

Frankie Miranda
President and CEO

cc: Hon. Brendan Carr
Hon. Geoffrey Starks
Hon. Nathan Simington

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing letter filed on ULS (File Nos. 0010475575 and 0010206629) was served upon the following persons via email on 6/24/2023.

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