

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington DC 20554

In the Matter of)
)
Waiver of Sections 90.1307(c) and (d)) WT Docket No. 18-353
and Sections 90.1338(a) and (b))
of the Commission’s Rules)

**COMMENTS OF THE
FIXED WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS COALITION**

The Fixed Wireless Communications Coalition, Inc. (“FWCC”)¹ files these comments in support of the Petition for Waiver filed by the Wireless Internet Service Providers Association (WISPA) and the Utilities Technology Council (UTC) on November 28, 2018.²

WISPA and UTC ask the Commission to preserve Incumbent Access status for grandfathered fixed links in the 3650-3700 MHz band through January 8, 2023.

In 2014, the FWCC opposed folding the 3650-3700 MHz band into the Citizens Broadband Radio Service (CBRS).³ We also objected to the alternative proposal for a five-year transition period as being much shorter than previous, comparable transitions.⁴ We added;

¹ The FWCC is a coalition of companies, associations, and individuals actively involved in the fixed services—*i.e.*, terrestrial fixed microwave communications. Our membership includes manufacturers of microwave equipment, fixed microwave engineering firms, licensees of terrestrial fixed microwave systems and their associations, and communications service providers and their associations. The membership also includes railroads, public utilities, petroleum and pipeline entities, public safety agencies, cable TV providers, backhaul providers, and/or their respective associations, communications carriers, and telecommunications attorneys and engineers. Our members build, install, and use both licensed and unlicensed point-to-point, point-to-multipoint, and other fixed wireless systems, in frequency bands from 900 MHz to 95 GHz. For more information, see www.fwcc.us.

² See *Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Seeks Comment on Wireless Council Request for Waiver of Citizens Broadband Radio Service Transition Deadline*, WT Docket 18-353. Public Notice, DA 18-1206 (released Nov. 27, 2018).

³ Reply Comments of the Fixed Wireless Communications Coalition in GN Docket No. 12-354 at 2 (filed Aug. 15, 2014).

⁴ *Id.* at 5.

Any expectation that the SAS will be up and running within the five year transition period is probably unrealistic. In some respects the SAS system will resemble the TV White Space (TVWS) database The comparison with TVWS is relevant here because the [much simpler] TVWS system took fully ten years to become operational—not counting a great deal of work undertaken by TVWS proponents and the Commission prior to launch of the formal proceeding.⁵

Our pessimism proved to be well founded.⁶ Because of delays in the SAS—and also the lack of CBRS end-user equipment—the extension that WISPA and UTC request would have little or no effect on the actual roll-out of CBRS.

The public relies on stability in the Commission’s rules. Capricious rule changes that make a band unavailable on short notice disrupt orderly installation and expansion, increase costs unnecessarily, and ultimately raise prices for consumers. The perceived risk of such rule changes deters innovation and investment.

The Commission can improve protection to the companies that accepted its invitation to invest in the 3650-3700 MHz band, with minimal adverse impact on CBRS, by granting the WISPA/UTC Petition for Waiver.

Respectfully submitted,



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⁵ *Id.* at 6 (footnotes omitted).

⁶ Petition for Waiver at 4-5.