July 30, 2015

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554


Dear Ms. Dortch:

On July 29, the undersigned and other broadcast and cable programming representatives met with Commission staff to discuss the forthcoming order addressing the long-term needs of licensed wireless microphone users. A complete list of meeting attendees is attached.

During this meeting, we stressed to Commission staff the continued importance of an immediate solution for reliable operation of wireless microphones used by newsgathering and reporting organizations to cover breaking news and emergencies, including those affecting public safety. Providing cable and broadcast newsgathering operations with 4 MHz of exclusive spectrum in the duplex gap remains by far the best solution to allow news crews to do their jobs.

We urged the Commission to allocate spectrum proposed in Commission’s Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for wireless microphones, and encouraged the Commission to promptly commence a rulemaking proceeding that would allocate spectrum in the 2020-2025 MHz range for exclusive use by licensed wireless microphones used for newsgathering operations. We emphasized that, following the Commission’s decision to eliminate two reserved channels for wireless microphones and the proposal to repack television stations in the duplex gap in some markets, it remains critical to find additional exclusive use spectrum for broadcast and cable news teams.
Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick McFadden  
Vice President Spectrum Policy,  
Legal and Regulatory Affairs  
National Association of Broadcasters  

cc: Meeting Attendees
Meeting Attendees

Commission Staff

Howard Symons (Incentive Auction Task Force)
Julius Knapp (Office of Engineering and Technology)
Paul Murphy (Office of Engineering and Technology)
Alan Stillwell (Office of Engineering and Technology)
Ira Keltz (Office of Engineering and Technology)
Geraldine Matisse (Office of Engineering and Technology)
Rodney Small (Office of Engineering and Technology)
Chad Breckinridge (Wireless Telecommunications Bureau)
John Schauble (Wireless Telecommunications Bureau)

Cable and Broadcast News Interests

Margaret Tobey (NBC)
Kevin Parrish (NBC)
Susan Fox (Disney)
Anne Lucey (CBS)
Keith Murphy (Viacom)
Jared Sher (Fox)
Kyle Dixon (Time Warner Inc.)
Bruce Franca (NAB)
Patrick McFadden (NAB)