HvMKEN
5031 Donnington Road
Clarence, NY 14031
703-362-0366

Via ECFS

June 27, 2013

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

Re: *Applications of Sprint and Softbank*, IB Docket No. 12-343

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On June 26, 2013, President Barack Obama announced, via the attached Executive Order (the "Order"), the establishment of the White House Council on Native American Affairs.[1] The council was created, according to the President, in order to promote and sustain prosperous and resilient Native American tribal governments.

As the Order explains, the "United States recognizes a government-to-government relationship, as well as a unique legal and political relationship, with federally recognized tribes" like the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe and Oglala Sioux Tribe:

> This relationship is set forth in the Constitution of the United States, treaties, statutes, Executive Orders, administrative rules and regulations, and judicial decisions. Honoring these relationships and respecting the sovereignty of tribal nations is critical to advancing tribal self-determination and prosperity.[2]

Accordingly, as the Order explains:

> This policy is established as a means of promoting and sustaining prosperous and resilient tribal communities. Greater engagement and meaningful consultation with tribes is of paramount importance in developing any policies affecting tribal nations.[3]

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1 Executive Order Establishing The White House Council on Native American Affairs (June 26, 2013) (attached).

2 *Id. a*t 1.

3 *Id.*

As we have explained in our earlier filings,[4] the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe and Oglala Sioux Tribe are attempting to ensure that Sprint and Softbank change Sprint's current behavior towards federally recognized tribes to reflect the requirements of existing regulations of the Federal Communications Commission and the policy of the federal government of respecting the sovereignty of tribal nations through our outreach to and dialog with the Federal Communications Commission.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s

Barry W. Brandon
Hvmken Consulting LLC

cc: Mindel De La Torre
Ruth Milkman
Sean Lev
Louis Peraertz
Rebekah Goodheart
David Goldman
Priscilla Delgado Argeris
Courtney Reinhard
Nicholas Degani
David Kretch
Jodie May
Joel Taubenblatt
Susan Singer
Joel Rabinovitz
Monica DeLong
Jim Bird
Irene Flanery
Lyle Ishida
Beau Finley
Rod Flowers

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4 *See* Crow Creek Sioux Tribe and Oglala Sioux Tribe Notice of Ex Parte Communication, *Applications of Sprint and Softbank*, IB Docket No. 12-343 (filed June 18, 2013) (proposing conditions on Sprint/Softbank merger to improve access to communications services on tribal areas).