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For Immediate Release**FCC REAFFIRMS DECISION TO RESERVE SPECTRUM
TO PROMOTE COMPETITION IN 2016 INCENTIVE AUCTION*****Commission Maintains Spectrum Reserve of Up to 30 Megahertz in 2016 Incentive Auction***

WASHINGTON, August 6, 2015 – The Federal Communications Commission reaffirmed its decision to establish a market-based spectrum reserve of up to 30 megahertz of spectrum in next year’s incentive auction in order to promote competition in the wireless marketplace. Non-nationwide providers as well as nationwide providers who currently hold less than one-third of available high-quality low-band spectrum in a given license area will be eligible to utilize this first-of-its-kind reserve.

With this vote, the Commission denied a petition for reconsideration asking the Commission to increase the reserve to at least 40 megahertz for qualified licensees.

In the May 2014 *Mobile Spectrum Holdings Report & Order*, the Commission [voted](#) to reserve up to 30 megahertz of spectrum within the 600 MHz band to promote competition. Those rules established a market-based reserve of no more than 30 megahertz of spectrum for non-nationwide providers as well as nationwide providers that hold less than one-third of available low-band spectrum in a license area. The Commission also established a spectrum reserve trigger to ensure that both reserve-eligible and non-reserve-eligible bidders bear a fair share of the cost of the incentive auction.

Commission policies related to the spectrum reserve are designed to strike a balance among a number of objectives, including making additional low-band spectrum available to multiple providers, ensuring that all bidders have an opportunity to acquire a stake in the 600 MHz ecosystem, and ensuring competitive bidding. The reserve is designed to protect against excessive concentration in holdings of low-band spectrum, while also promoting competition by bidders for both reserved and unreserved spectrum.

With yesterday’s vote, the Commission also denied a petition asking the FCC to reconsider its decision in the May 2014 *Order* not to adopt specific weighting factors that would apply to different spectrum bands when examining the effects of sales of spectrum between two parties in a given geographic market.

Action by the Commission August 5, 2015 by Order on Reconsideration (FCC 15-79). Chairman Wheeler, Commissioners Rosenworcel and O’Rielly; Commissioner Clyburn approving and dissenting in part; and Commissioner Pai concurring. Chairman Wheeler, Commissioners

Clyburn, Pai and O’Rielly issuing statements.

WT Docket No. 12-269; GN Docket No. 12-268

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