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Spectrum Policy for Innovation

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The Message on One Slide

- U. S. Spectrum Policy is out-of-date:
  - ~ 300 MHz is assigned to broadcast TV
  - Even more if we count satellite and microwave
  - ~ 292 MHz is assigned to Big Four mobile networks
  - Yet ten times more Americans use mobile than watch TV OTA

- We got here by a process of static, administrative assignment.
- We need a dynamic process that allocates spectrum by demand.
- Multiple-use networks are better than single-use applications.
- Marketplace allocation is better than administrative allocation.
- Leave the door open to new technologies such as Dynamic Spectrum Access that may change the game in a few years.
Recommendation One

Congress should grant permissive incentive auction authority to the FCC.
Recommendation Two

Broadcasters who don’t participate in the incentive auction should be reassigned to digital TV channels shared with other non-participating broadcasters.
Recommendation Three

The FCC should phase out existing application-specific licenses and work toward the goal of creating a single network with multiple components.
Recommendation Four

The FCC should plan for a second DTV transition that redefines DTV as an application provided by multi-purpose networks.
Recommendation Five

The FCC should regard unauthorized spectrum use as the violation of the law that it is.
Recommendation Six

Spectrum licenses issued in the future should be subject to review and revocation on a five to ten year basis to allow for the ultimate deployment of Dynamic Spectrum Allocation systems when practical and beneficial.
Recommendation Seven

Congress should clarify the rights of spectrum license holders relative to their neighbors and authorize the FCC to adjudicate such disputes in a rule-driven, case-by-case procedure.
Recommendation Eight

The NTIA should develop a plan to privatize most of the spectrum currently assigned to government agencies at the federal, state, and local levels.
Recommendation Nine

The national public safety network proposed by S. 911 should not be built as currently conceived. Instead, it should be a Mobile Virtual Network (MVN) running over commercial spectrum funded in part by auction proceeds and serving first responders.
The FCC should develop an empirical means for determining the relative value of exclusive spectrum licensing versus non-exclusive use.
Thank You

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