Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)
Service Rules for the 746-764) WT Docket No. 99-168
and 776-794 MHz Bands)
(Television Channels 60-69))
Auction of Licenses in the) DA 02-260
747-762 and 777-792 MHz) Report No. AUC 02-31-A
Bands Scheduled for June 19, 2002) (Auction No. 31)

To: Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

REPLY COMMENTS OF MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE SPECTRUM CLEARING ALLIANCE

We, the undersigned members and supporters of the Spectrum Clearing Alliance, hereby submit these Reply Comments in support of those filed by Paxson Communications Corporation ("Paxson") in response to the *Public Notice* requesting comment on procedures for the upper 700 MHz auction.¹ In its comments, Paxson urged the Bureau not to risk delaying the upper 700 MHz auction by linking it with the lower 700 MHz auction in any way. Paxson argued that there are no tangible benefits to linking the auctions, and that doing so creates substantial risks of further delaying the upper 700 MHz auction. Such a delay, Paxson argued, would severely undermine the band-clearing work that the Commission and broadcasters have taken up over the last several years. Paxson also noted that ongoing upper 700 MHz band-clearing efforts

 ¹ See Auction of Licenses in the 747-762 and 777-792 MHz Bands Scheduled for June 19, 2002: Comments Sought on Adding to Auction Inventory and Further Modifying Package Bidding Procedures, *Public Notice*, DA 02-260, Report No. AUC-02-31-A (Auction No. 31) (rel. February 4, 2002) (the "*Upper 700 MHz Auction Public Notice*").

require the Commission's clear commitment to a pro-band-clearing regulatory environment, and that any sign from the Commission that it is no longer committed to voluntary band-clearing will likely doom current efforts. Paxson further argued that if the Commission delays the auction and forsakes the band-clearing work done by broadcasters, it will eliminate any chance that the upper 700 MHz band will be cleared for the introduction of critically needed public safety and new wireless services prior to the close of the DTV transition.

We support Paxson's positions and oppose the proposal to link the upper and lower 700 MHz auction. We hope to reach band-clearing agreements with prospective wireless entrants that will facilitate the introduction of much-needed public safety and new commercial services. Any proposal that encourages delay in the upper 700 MHz auction discourages progress in reaching these agreements. The Commission's upper 700 MHz band-clearing policies should not be changed or undermined at this late date. Accordingly, we urge the Bureau to retain the functional separation of the upper and lower 700 MHz auction and refrain from linking the two auctions in any regard. Most importantly, however, we urge the Bureau not to delay commencement of the upper

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700 MHz auction beyond the scheduled June 19, 2002 start date.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: February 26, 2002