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Voqal Responds to Chairman Pai's Plan to "Open Up" the 2.5 GHz Band

June 18, 2019 – While we await the release of the FCC's Draft Report and Order before coming to a final conclusion, Voqal is disheartened with reports today that the FCC is poised to strip the public interest requirement from Educational Broadband Service (EBS) spectrum – the only public airwaves reserved for educators.

The timing of this news is especially disappointing given there is no resolution on the T-Mobile / Sprint merger, which has serious implications for EBS licensees. Furthermore, a major economic study – the only of its kind – was recently submitted to the Commission but has yet to receive any significant discussion in the record. Most importantly, in the past few days multiple members of Congress and the Department of Education have submitted letters to the FCC imploring the Commission to keep EBS educational. For an FCC that is constantly concerned with Congressional intent, they seem to be ignoring it when it comes to Educational Broadband Service.

About Voqal

Voqal is a national collaboration of EBS (Educational Broadband Service) licensees that work to advance social equity by creating an educated, empowered and engaged public. Voqal makes grants and impact investments, expands internet access and digital equity, offers fellowships and protects the public airwaves. Our efforts focus on the education and enrichment of all, not just those who are well-off socially, economically and politically.