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November 1, 2019

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

Ex Parte

Re: Notice of Ex Parte Presentation, ET Docket No. 18-295

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Utilities Technology Council (“UTC”) is providing the following ex parte notification in the above-referenced proceeding in accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission’s Rules. On October 21, 2019, Joy Ditto, President & CEO of UTC participated in a panel discussion with FCC Commissioner Michael O’Rielly at the EnVision Forum in Lexington, Kentucky, hosted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the University of Kentucky during which the above-referenced 6 GHz proceeding was discussed.

In her remarks, Ms. Ditto described the importance of the 6 GHz (5925-7125 MHz) band for microwave communications systems by utilities and other critical infrastructure industries, and the need to ensure that these systems are protected against potential interference from unlicensed operations. Ms. Ditto explained that utilities rely on the 6 GHz band to ensure the safe, reliable and secure delivery of essential electric, gas and water services. She also explained that these utility microwave systems in the 6 GHz band must remain highly reliable, and that they are used for a variety of mission critical voice and data applications, such as Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) and protective relaying which monitor and control critical assets, such as substations, and protect against faults and other events from occurring that can interrupt or degrade essential energy and water services. Ms. Ditto concluded her remarks by stating that the Commission should refrain from allowing unlicensed operations in the 6 GHz band, and that further field testing of the automated frequency control technology proposed to mitigate harmful interference is necessary before any such unlicensed operations should be permitted in the band.

Thank you for your help in this matter. If there are any questions concerning this matter, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Brett Kilbourne' in a cursive script.

Brett Kilbourne
Vice President, Policy & General Counsel