

November 16, 2007
For Immediate Release



MAP Reacts to DEs Order for Upcoming 700MHz Auction

WASHINGTON -- Harold Feld, Senior Vice President of the Media Access Project, issued the following statement in response to the FCC's release last night of an Order with regard to the upcoming 700 MHz auction modifying the designated entity (DE) credit rules to permit DEs to offer more than 51% of capacity for leasing for the D Block license only:

"We are pleased that the Commission recognized the importance of encouraging a wholesale model by granting limited DE relief. The limitation on leasing capacity adopted last year to discourage the use of "sham" DEs remains an important protection against previously well documented abuses, and the limited relief granted given the unique circumstances of the D Block will serve the public interest without compromising this necessary safeguard. Although we had also asked for DE relief on the C Block subject to additional safeguards, the Commission's actions represent a positive step forward for the wholesaling model."

"The one concern in limiting the relief to D Block is whether C Block will now attract sufficient bidders to meet the artificially high reserve price established by the Commission. Because C Block will likely prove attractive to small, entrepreneurial firms and start ups that have not developed business models based on locking in subscribers, the failure to provide DE relief for wholesalers in C Block is disappointing."

"We also note that this gives new reason for the Commission to act expeditiously on the pending Petition for Reconsideration filed by the Public Interest Spectrum Coalition (PISC) asking that the Commission prohibit a bidder from winning both C Block and D Block. With D Block now the focus of small firms hoping to develop a wholesale model, the Commission has additional reason to keep the D Block auction competitive."

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Media Access Project (MAP) is a non-profit advocacy organization dedicated to promoting the public's First Amendment right to access a diverse marketplace of ideas in the electronic mass media of today and tomorrow. For over 35 years, MAP has promoted the public interest before the FCC and the Courts, advocating for an open and diverse media that protects the free flow of information, promotes universal and equitable access, and encourages vibrant public discourse on critical issues facing our society. For more information please visit our website at www.mediaaccess.org.

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