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August 3, 2016

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WorldVu Satellites Limited, d/b/a OneWeb
IBFS File No. SAT-LOI-20160428-00041

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

A priority of my administration is to lower utility costs throughout rural Alaska in an effort to jumpstart local economies. I view broadband access and affordability in this light. In addition, broadband infrastructure and high speed capacity are essential to our successful delivery of educational, medical, and emergency response services throughout our state. The OneWeb project is attractive because it eliminates the need to construct middle mile connections to primary teleports or earthstations. The antennas can be installed on the facilities or transportation equipment easily and take up very little space. These low cost satellite connections will move data directly from homes, businesses, schools, hospitals, vessels, or aircraft via satellite to high-speed broadband internet gateways in larger urban areas. This is an ideal low-cost solution where the geographic isolation and environmental protection challenges make rural Alaska's middle mile infrastructure cost prohibitive.

I am particularly enthused about the fact that OneWeb's network of satellites will be moving in a pole to pole direction, such that Alaska and other Arctic regions will receive tremendous coverage. We will also continue to support the work of other telecommunications companies as they work to enhance the capacity and speed of internet connections to internet gateways and teleports so that we minimize bottlenecks.

The OneWeb satellite system would be a game changer in Alaska's ability to participate in the federally mandated FirstNet program. The FirstNet project is designed to serve as a coordinated statewide and nationwide emergency response system. The biggest challenge FirstNet faces is developing reliable, affordable broadband systems in rural states. The OneWeb system would help fill that gap. The OneWeb system likewise would substantially improve Alaska's ability and that of the FAA and U.S. Coast Guard to track aircraft and vessels throughout our state for safety and spill prevention purposes.

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
WorldVu Satellites Limited, d/b/a OneWeb
August 3, 2016
Page 2

I encourage you to grant OneWeb's petition requesting landing rights within the U.S. market, so it can deliver high-speed, affordable broadband in both rural and urban Alaska.

Sincerely,



Bill Walker
Governor

cc: The Honorable Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission
The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission
The Honorable Ajit Pai, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission