



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Johnston, RI (July 5, 2019) - "We are currently reviewing Commissioner Carr's letter and we will respond appropriately. In the meantime, I note that NACEPF and Mobile Beacon have already provided the Commission with extensive information about the scope and depth of our existing programs, which specifically and successfully provide broadband for educational purposes, not only in our licensed market areas but throughout all 50 states. Moreover, over 95% of all organizations and individuals that filed comments in this proceeding have told the Commission to preserve EBS for education, many detailing various ways they are using Mobile Beacon's service to support education throughout the U.S.

Today, our broadband service is used by 830 schools, 1019 public libraries, and 4880 nonprofits to benefit students of all ages and abilities. We've been innovators and leaders in developing programs that specifically address the homework gap and digital divide. We pioneered the library hotspot lending model which enables patrons without home internet access to "check-out" the internet so they are not limited to library hours for access to technology. Schools are using our EBS service to provide WiFi on school buses, off-campus connectivity for student-athletes as well as hospitalized children, to keep classrooms running in the wake of natural disasters, and to provide home connectivity for low-income families that cannot afford commercial rates.

It is disappointing that Commissioner Carr's letter implies EBS is currently underutilized and existing EBS licensees are somehow to blame. The reason EBS isn't fully utilized is due to the Commission's failure to make any EBS spectrum available in roughly 50% of the U.S. for more than 20 years

This letter should not distract anyone from the FCC's actions. The FCC plans to vote in two days to eliminate all educational and public interest benefits in this spectrum band moving forward. This proceeding was a unique opportunity for the Commission to maximize both educational and commercial interests by modernizing the EBS band. Instead, this Commission appears determined to serve only commercial interests.

I hope that the long-term consequences of this vote for the millions of students and families without access to broadband are first and foremost on every Commissioner's mind going into the July 10th meeting."

- Katherine Messier, Executive Director, Mobile Beacon and Director of Development, NACEPF

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**About NACEPF:** North American Catholic Educational Programming Foundation, Inc. (NACEPF) is a Rhode Island-based 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization and the second largest Educational Broadband

Service (EBS) licensee in the United States. NACEPF's broadband service, religious and educational programming, and advocacy efforts support education at every level. NACEPF's worldwide philanthropic efforts focus on providing access to the resources essential to human development and well-being. This includes access to healthy food, clean water, safe housing, education, healthcare, and faith-based services. NACEPF's wholly-owned subsidiary, Mobile Beacon, broadband service to educational, nonprofit, and community anchor institutions throughout the United States. To learn more, visit [www.nacepf.net](http://www.nacepf.net).

**About Mobile Beacon:** Mobile Beacon provides high-speed, low-cost, mobile internet access to the anchors of communities: the nonprofits, schools, libraries, and healthcare organizations that provide vital services to millions of Americans every day. Through this broadband service, organizations have an essential tool to fulfill their missions and maximize their philanthropic impact, which allows organizations to access more information, reach more people, and help more in their communities. Learn more at [www.mobilebeacon.org](http://www.mobilebeacon.org).