Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of

Higher Ground LLC

Application for a Blanket License to Operate C-band Mobile Earth Terminals

File No. SES-LIC-20150616-00357

Call Sign E150095

TOPAZ REGIONAL WIRELESS COOPERATIVE

PETITION TO DENY

The TOPAZ Regional Wireless Cooperative (TRWC) is opposed to Higher Ground LLC’s (HG) proposed use of frequencies in the 5925-6425 MHz band for mobile earth stations. The TRWC is concerned that HG’s use of these frequency’s will cause potentially harmful interference to the fixed microwave communications facilities which would affect mission critical two-way radio traffic. The TRWC strongly objects to the grant of the application/filing by Higher Ground (E150095).

The TRWC’s Public Safety radio communications system depends heavily on the microwave communications network to provide highly reliable connectivity between our 911 dispatch operations and the Public Safety’s simulcast radio system operations.

The TRWC is concerned that the granting of HG’s proposal, without further scrutiny and the opportunity for widespread public comment, could cause harmful interference to

1 The Cities of Mesa and Apache Junction, the Towns of Gilbert, Rio Verde and Queen Creek, Superstition Fire & Medical, and the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation have established the Topaz Regional Wireless Cooperative (TRWC). The TRWC Region covers over 320 square miles in the Southeast Phoenix/Mesa Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area and represents over 750,000 citizens. Within this area there are 263,917 households, 20,239 businesses and 175 community anchor institutions (schools, hospitals, clinics, etc.). The TRWC network itself connects 21 public safety agencies (Law Enforcement, Fire/Rescue, Emergency Medical, and Emergency Management), Mesa Community College, Mesa Public Schools and the City of Phoenix. The function of the TRWC, through the implementation of the TRWC Governance Process, is to jointly operate a regional radio system that is modern in its management, has equity in membership, and provides for support and future growth. The City of Mesa is a license holder in the 5925-6425 MHz band with 51 mission critical public safety microwave sites throughout the East valley (Phoenix metro area), with 11 microwave paths that are licensed in the proposed band.

http://www.topazrwc.org/Home.aspx
Public Safety radio communications system. Any interference from the proposed mobile earth stations would be very difficult to detect and correct, and could potentially jeopardize the safety of our First Responders and citizens.

The TRWC only very recently learned about Higher Ground’s proposal through a copy of the July, 2016 notification letter to an adjacent agency from Commsearch.

We depend upon the frequency coordination and filing process to protect our critical licensed microwave links for Public Safety from interference.

The TRWC requests that the Commission deny the HG application and waiver request and allow the matter to instead be studied under the full scrutiny of a rulemaking proceeding.

Sincerely,

/s/ Dale Shaw
Dale Shaw
TRWC Executive Director