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February 22, 2021

Mr. Christopher Killion, Deputy Bureau Chief
Ms. Elizabeth Mumaw, Chief, Spectrum Enforcement Division
Enforcement Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, NE
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Interference from consumer devices

Dear Chris and Elizabeth:

On behalf of Sirius XM, I want to thank the Enforcement Bureau for the three orders it released in late December citing the manufacturers of devices operating illegally in the SDARS band and devices that are marketed under improper “product family” claims.¹ Consumer devices that transmit in the satellite radio spectrum may not be marketed, nor may sellers rely on unfounded assertions that potentially interfering devices are legal if they share a “product family” with certified devices.

Sirius XM is extremely concerned about consumer devices causing interference to our satellite radio service, since such interference can completely block our subscribers’ ability to receive the service.² Consumer devices constitute a repeated, persistent, and rapidly growing source of that interference. Devices we have found operating unlawfully in this band include outdoor and home Wi-Fi routers and extenders, as well as vehicle-mounted video cameras. These devices can cause interference not only to Sirius XM radios, but also to other vehicle electronics systems including AM/FM radios and vehicle remote controls. According to complaints on retailers’ own websites, consumers have even reported interference from vehicle-

¹ Premier Communications Corp. d/b/a Pryme Radio Products, Citation and Order: Illegal Marketing of Unauthorized Radio Frequency Devices, File No. EB-SED-19-00028740, DA 20-1539 (Spectrum Enforcement Div. rel. Dec. 29, 2020); Components Specialties, Inc. d/b/a Spec Technologies, Citation and Order: Illegal Marketing of Unauthorized Radio Frequency Devices, File No. EB-SED-19-00029064, DA 20-1537 (Spectrum Enforcement Div. rel. Dec. 29, 2020); W.W. Grainger, Inc., d/b/a Grainger, Citation and Order: Illegal Marketing of Unauthorized Radio Frequency Devices, File No. EB-SED-19-00029062, DA 20-1538 (Spectrum Enforcement Div. rel. Dec. 29, 2020).

² Sirius XM participates in numerous FCC proceedings where it has expressed concerns about the increasing problem of harmful interference from consumer devices. *See, e.g.*, Letter from Terry Mahn, Counsel for Sirius XM Radio Inc. to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, January 22, 2021, ET Docket No. 15-170 (filed Jan. 22, 2021); Comments of Sirius XM Radio Inc., ET Docket No. 18-295 and GN Docket No. 17-183 (filed June 29, 2020); Comments of Sirius XM Radio Inc., WT Docket No. 10-4 (filed May 18, 2018).

mounted cameras to their Tire Pressure Monitoring Systems (TPMS), raising potential safety concerns. The severity of the problem is increasing exponentially as electronics manufacturers and retailers ramp up development, production, and distribution of new wireless devices. Moreover, this issue must be addressed before devices are sold, since devices causing interference cannot practically be modified or removed from the market once they are in consumers' hands.

Under FCC rules, no unlicensed devices may transmit in the 2.3 GHz band in which Sirius XM operates.³ Nevertheless, Sirius XM has identified numerous consumer devices that cause harmful interference to the SDARS service, including devices sold through popular online retailers and marketplaces such as Amazon and BestBuy. In some cases, the devices improperly display FCC labels or the FCC logo or claim to have "product family" certifications that are based on inaccurate information; in other cases, the devices do not even purport to have the required FCC equipment certification that would allow them to be marketed in this country.

Sirius XM has attempted to resolve this problem by investigating consumer complaints and other indications of harmful interference by identifying, purchasing, and testing the consumer devices responsible for such interference, and by reaching out to the manufacturers of those devices and the retailers that sell them. However, this increasingly difficult "whack a mole" approach to identifying interference-causing devices one-by-one is highly resource-intensive, and manufacturers and retailers often fail to respond helpfully when contacted.

As interference threats increase with the proliferation of these devices, Sirius XM cannot resolve the situation on its own. We strongly encourage the Commission to take a more comprehensive approach to this problem by issuing an Enforcement Advisory, along with further enforcement actions levied against specific companies and products found to be violating Commission rules. An Enforcement Advisory reminding the public (including equipment manufacturers, distributors, and retailers) of their FCC obligations and their potential liability for manufacturing, importing, selling, or using devices capable of operating in, or interfering with, reception in the 2.3 GHz band would be an important step toward eliminating the problem and protecting consumers.

Thank you again for the actions the Bureau has already taken, and we look forward to working together on this matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James S. Blitz".

James S. Blitz
Vice President, Regulatory Counsel

³ See 47 C.F.R. § 15.205(a).