



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

April 27, 2015

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

Thank you for your letter concerning the impact of the upcoming voluntary Broadcast Television Spectrum Incentive Auction on TV translator stations.

I agree that TV translators play an important role in providing information to consumers and businesses in rural communities. As you note, in the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act, Congress did not provide LPTV or TV translator stations with the same legal protection as full power and Class A stations. The Commission is taking steps, however, to help ensure that the important programming content these stations provide continues to reach viewers.

To help accommodate some of the needs of LPTV and TV translator stations, these stations will be permitted to remain on their existing channels during the transition period after the Incentive Auction, unless or until they are notified that they interfere with the primary service. Licensees of operating LPTV and TV translator stations that are displaced by a broadcast television station or a wireless service provider, or whose channel is reserved as a guard band, will be permitted to submit an application for displacement relief in a special filing window.

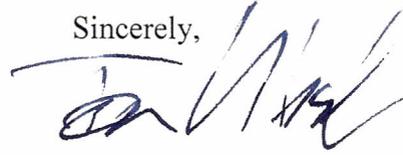
Additionally, in October 2014, the Commission initiated a proceeding to address other LPTV and TV translator issues related to the Incentive Auction. This proceeding explores options that may help these stations continue to serve their communities. We anticipate completing this proceeding in advance of the auction.

In the Incentive Auction, the Commission intends to offer a uniform number of spectrum licenses in most markets across the country. The Commission will not offer more spectrum in an area than the amount offered in most markets nationwide. Rather, the Commission will offer the same amount of spectrum nationwide in all areas where sufficient spectrum is available. In other words, the fact that more spectrum may be available in rural areas than in urban areas does not mean that additional rural spectrum will be made available for auction in those locations.

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I appreciate your interest and concerns. Your letter will be placed in the appropriate record.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", written over a horizontal line.

Tom Wheeler