

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 24, 2015

394

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler

We write you today in regards to the Federal Communications Commission's proposal to close field offices across the country. We are particularly interested in the Vancouver, Washington field office that oversees Oregon, Southern Washington and Western Idaho and is on the list of proposed closures.

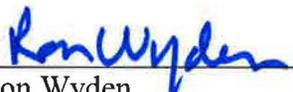
We applaud the FCC for its efforts to modernize their field office staff to keep up with the ever changing telecommunications landscape in the United States. We agree that updates are constantly needed to create an efficient mode of enforcement for radio spectrum usage. While these are encouraging developments by the Commission, we worry that the lack of FCC staff close to our constituents could cause a disruption in policing the airways for local broadcasters.

As you know, the importance of the Vancouver, Washington field office is vital to the television and radio broadcasters in our state. Interference disruptions can delay or disrupt local news, weather and emergency broadcasting that local communities rely on. Oregon needs an FCC field office readily available for broadcasters in order to quickly resolve issues as they arrive. We worry that a field office as far away as San Francisco would not prioritize our constituents, and have a significant delay in response time to broadcasters in the Pacific Northwest.

For those reasons, we request that the FCC, at very least, facilitate public input on the proposed field office closures as this process progresses. We also ask the FCC to consider the needs of our local broadcasters before closing the Vancouver, Washington location, and look to find an alternative solution to this matter.

Thank you for your time and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,


Ron Wyden
United States Senator


Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator