

U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

593

Spectrum Auctions

June 16, 2015

The Honorable Tom Wheeler, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

As long-time advocates for expanding access to unlicensed spectrum, we're writing to reiterate the importance of establishing the necessary technical rules to support the nationwide availability of unlicensed spectrum within the 600 MHz band.

Under the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, Congress reached a carefully crafted compromise aimed at fueling the wireless economy through both unlicensed and licensed spectrum. Consistent with this compromise, we commend the Commission for recognizing the enormous benefits of unlicensed use when it adopted the Incentive Auction Report and Order in May 2014.

We're concerned that the FCC is now under pressure to undo this proposal. Jeopardizing the rollout of innovative new unlicensed technologies will not only harm startups and entrepreneurs, but stands to curtail the more than \$140 billion in economic value produced by unlicensed spectrum annually. Industries with competing business models have proposed throwing off this careful balance by imposing technical changes that will make the spectrum effectively unusable for unlicensed services. This result would run counter to the objectives set out in the 2012 law.

As the Commission considers how to amend its Part 15 rules to implement the policies adopted last year, we urge you to preserve the intent of Congress by expanding opportunities for unlicensed services on a nationwide basis. We're confident that the Commission can finalize its technical rules to allow unlicensed use of the 600 MHz band while simultaneously ensuring the success of the world's first voluntary incentive auction.

With the necessary technical rules in place, the Commission will be one step closer to fulfilling the vision of Congress for the next generation of unlicensed innovation. Thank you for considering our views and for your continuing efforts to advance the wireless economy.

Sincerely,

  
Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

  
Darrell Issa  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner  
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner  
The Honorable Ajit Pai, Commissioner  
The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner