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To the Federal Communications Commission:

FCC Mailroom

My name is Rob Stafsholt and I represent a largely rural district in the Wisconsin State Legislature. Like so many rural communities across the country, our region been left behind when it comes to technology that will spur economic development and close the education gap between our rural and urban communities.

I'm writing to urge you to adopt the regulations needed to make TV White Space technology a reality in the market for broadband access. TV white space offers the most affordable option for broadband delivery in sparsely populated areas, which are often underserved when it comes to Internet access.

Lack of access to broadband Internet means fewer educational and job opportunities as well as poor health outcomes. If we are unable to bridge the gap with affordable access to broadband Internet, this problem will only get worse as our population continues to age and our young people leave the region to pursue job opportunities elsewhere.

TV White Space technology can help us bridge this gap by delivering high speed Internet that operates four times faster and reaches 16 times farther than Wi-Fi. And this technology operates at a frequency that can move through objects like hills and foliage. It's estimated that broadband Internet served on the White Space spectrum could reach about 80% of the rural population that lacks high-speed Internet access today.

The FCC helped advance White Space technology by previous orders over the last decade that set the stage for its introduction and development. In order to take advantage of TV White Spaces, the FCC needs to ensure the continued use of at least three channels below 700 MHz on an unlicensed basis in every market in the country.

Now that the technology has been successfully piloted in numerous projects in the U.S. and abroad, I'm urging you to finalize the permanent policies necessary to ensure that White Space can be used at a commercial scale.

Lack of Internet access has been an impediment to region. Please take the appropriate actions to make this technology available to those who need it most.

Sincerely,

Rob Stafsholt
Wisconsin State Representative

CC: Speaker Paul Ryan
U.S. Senator Ron Johnson
U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin
U.S. Representative Sean Duffy