



Administration Office

Rogue Valley Council of Governments

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May 1, 2018

The Honorable Greg Walden
2185 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Walden,

The Board of Directors of the Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG) has directed me to request your assistance in improving the quality and availability of internet service in rural areas by working with the FCC to repurpose TV white space for the purpose of reducing the current gap in broadband access. The Board recently received a detailed presentation of the technology involved, and understands that the major barrier to going forward is the need for the FCC to ensure that, at a minimum, three channels below 700 MHz are available for wireless use on an unlicensed basis in every market in the country.

Our membership of 15 local governments and 8 special districts and educational institutions is well aware of the unreliable and unacceptably slow internet access suffered by many of southern Oregon's rural residents. Not only is this an issue for those who are now unable to benefit from the internet's entertainment, social media, commercial, and educational resources, but the lack of 21st century access is also hampering the region's economic development. As an attractive place to live and work, southern Oregon has seen some success in attracting individuals interested in establishing innovative start-ups and home businesses, many of them reliant on robust and reliable internet access. Unfortunately, that success has been limited, as there are large swaths of Jackson and Josephine counties, some of them even including parts of incorporated communities, without that level of critical access. As a result, we are losing potentially well paying jobs in a growing sector of the modern economy.

We understand that the designation of a minimum of three channels below 700 MHz would be a final step in a process the FCC has undertaken for the last decade to provide for the highest use possible for available TV white space. We appreciate the work the FCC has already accomplished, and are eager to see the results of that long process unfold as soon as possible in our rural landscape. We have no doubt that when that happens, the realized potential will eclipse by far the investment necessary to unleash it.

Sincerely,

Michael Cavallaro
Executive Director, RVCOG

cc: Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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List ABCDE

- The Rogue Valley Council of Governments is a voluntary association of these local governments and special districts in our region:*
- Jackson County
 - Josephine County
 - City of Ashland
 - Town of Butte Falls
 - City of Cave Junction
 - City of Central Point
 - City of Eagle Point
 - City of Gold Hill
 - City of Grants Pass
 - City of Jacksonville
 - City of Medford
 - City of Phoenix
 - City of Rogue River
 - City of Shady Cove
 - City of Talent
 - Emergency Communications of Southern Oregon (ECSO)
 - Jackson County Library District (JCLD)
 - Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District
 - Rogue Community College (RCC)
 - Rogue Valley Sewer Services (RVS)
 - Rogue Valley Transportation District (RVTD)
 - Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development, Inc. (SOREDI)
 - Southern Oregon University (SOU)