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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

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May 12, 1994

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Honorable Larry E. Craig
United States Senate
313 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

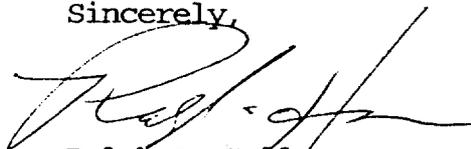
Dear Senator Craig:

This is in reply to your letter of January 27, 1994, on behalf of your constituent Mr. David Smith Forsman. Mr. Forsman opposes auctioning radio frequency spectrum because he believes that radio spectrum is not the property of the FCC. Rather, Mr. Smith believes that radio spectrum is part of our natural environment, and should not become a device by which the federal government may generate revenues. Your letter was referred to me as Chief of the Personal Communications Systems (PCS) Task Force for the Commission.

The recently enacted Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) authorized the Commission to employ competitive bidding procedures to choose among mutually exclusive applications for licenses in various services, and required the Commission to prescribe regulations to implement the new statute by March 8, 1994. Congress directed the Commission to determine a system of competitive bidding that would promote the development and rapid deployment of new technologies, products, and services for the benefit of the public, promote economic opportunity and competition by disseminating licenses among a wide variety of applicants, recover for the public a portion of the value of the public spectrum, and result in the efficient and intensive use of the electromagnetic spectrum.

Contrary to Mr. Forsman's assertion that spectrum auctions will be solely a tool to generate federal revenues, the Commission stated in its Second Report and Order, adopted March 8, 1994, that its purpose was not to maximize auctions revenue. Although Congress charged the Commission to recover a portion of the value of the public spectrum, the Commission also concluded that it will best achieve Congress' objectives by generally awarding licenses to those applicants who value them most highly, and who will use the licensed portion of the spectrum most efficiently. The most practical method of doing that is through spectrum actions.

Sincerely,



Ralph A. Haller
Chief, PCS Task Force

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LARRY E. CRAIG
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United States Senate
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OPP
Auctions
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AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,
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SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON AGING
JOINT ECONOMIC
COMMITTEE
SELECT COMMITTEE
ON ETHICS

January 27, 1994

Lou Sizemore
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Lou:

Enclosed please find a copy of an inquiry I recently received from David Forsman.

As you will note, Mr. Forsman is concerned about auctioning the radio spectrum by the FCC. I would appreciate your review and response to these concerns. Please forward your response to the address below:

Senator Larry E. Craig
313 Hart Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
Attention: Tim Olsen

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



LARRY E. CRAIG
U.S. Senator

Enclosure

3115 Seventh Street
Lewiston, ID 83501-4607
24 December 1993

The Honorable Larry E. Craig
Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-1203

Dear Senator Craig:

Recently, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) considered a plan to auction radio frequency spectrum--approximately 160 MHz in size. I oppose this concept, because radio spectrum is not the property of the FCC or any person.

The auctioning of radio spectrum would be similar to the auctioning of air, sunlight, etc. Electromagnetic spectrum, of the same wavelength, can not be divided into separate pieces. It is all a continuous part of our natural environment.

If radio spectrum is allowed to be auctioned, then it may merely become a device for the Federal Government to generate revenues by. This would imply that the Federal Government holds complete ownership to all radio spectrum.

Well, my gratitude to the Federal Government is not there. Radio spectrum existed long before there was any government, and will, probably, exist long after the last one.

If the United States is to remain different than its European neighbors--where all individuals must hold expensive and valid radio licenses--then we must resist the temptation to auction one of Nature's gifts (radio spectrum).

Please evaluate my opinion carefully, and see if you do not also agree.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Smith Forsman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

David Smith Forsman

LARRY E. CRAIG
IDAHO

HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 224-2752

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1203
April 29, 1994

*PRS
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Lou Sizemore
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Lou:

In reviewing the inquiry I received from David Forsman, I discovered I have not received a response from your agency.

I would greatly appreciate your reviewing these concerns and responding in a timely manner. Please forward your reply to:

Senator Larry E. Craig
312 Senate Hart Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
Attention: Tim Olsen

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



LARRY E. CRAIG
U.S. Senator

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