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The Honorable Gordon H. Smith
President and CEO

January 29, 2015

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

ACCEPTED/FILED

JAN 30 2015

Federal Communications Commission
Deputy Secretary

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Dear Chairman Wheeler:

I would like to offer broadcasters' sincerest congratulations to you and your staff on the remarkably successful conclusion of Auction 97. After more than two months and 341 rounds of bidding, the auction has generated nearly \$45 billion, exceeding even the wildest expectations. The proceeds from this auction will fund important priorities, including public safety and deficit reduction. You, your fellow Commissioners, and the Commission's hardworking staff should be proud of this significant achievement.

The AWS-3 auction success is also a significant point of pride for our nation's television broadcasters, as we played a vital role in facilitating it. As you know, the National Association of Broadcasters took the lead role in negotiating an agreement to share with the Department of Defense (DOD) spectrum broadcasters currently use exclusively at 2025-2110 MHz. Facilitating DOD's move out of the 1755-1780 MHz band, in turn, led the way for including this spectrum in the auction, paired with spectrum in the 2155-2180 MHz band. This allowed the Commission to auction nationwide, paired spectrum that complements carriers' existing spectrum portfolios. Broadcasters' willingness to step up and voluntarily share spectrum with government users thus helped maximize the value of spectrum the Commission offered in Auction 97, greatly contributing to the auction's tremendous success.

This is a terrific example of the benefits of industry and government collaboration. It also demonstrates broadcasters' strong commitment to the efficient use of spectrum. Broadcasters had nothing to gain from voluntarily sharing spectrum they use for important news gathering and other purposes with government users. Nevertheless, we recognize the public importance of good spectrum stewardship.

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We are happy to have played a part in ensuring this auction's success, and we look forward to continuing to work constructively with you and your fellow Commissioners to solve complex problems in ways that benefit government, industry stakeholders and most importantly, the American people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon H. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Gordon H. Smith

cc: Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner Ajit Pai
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly
Renee Gregory
Louis Peraertz
Priscilla Delgado Argeris
Brendan Carr
Erin McGrath