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March 16, 2015

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

I am writing today with an important issue affecting many parts of my state along with other western states. The Commission recently closed the bidding of the Advanced Wireless Spectrum (AWS-3) auction, which generated more than \$40 billion. The proceeds will ensure that the public safety priorities Congress identified in the Spectrum Act are fully funded. It is my understanding that the next major auction on the Commission's agenda is the broadcast TV incentive auction.

As you may know, television viewers in Oregon and many other parts of the West rely heavily on television translator stations for reliable over-the-air service. While these stations are not entitled to the same legal protection as full power and Class A stations as the Commission repacks the television band, they provide a critical service for many of our constituents who live in rural communities. For this reason, we ask that Commission consider the needs of these stations and their viewers for the duration the repacking process.

The urgency of this situation is that in the proposed post-auction band plan, Oregonians could to lose critical news and information services as the result of displaced translators. I ask the FCC to consider rural Oregonians when pursuing any band plan that overly benefits wireless consumers in select markets at the expense of harming reliable over-the-air television.

The Commission can still achieve Congress's goal of repurposing spectrum for wireless use while protecting broadcast TV viewers. To this end, I urge you to pursue a nationwide band plan that significantly limits spectrum variation among markets and protects TV translators that serve rural America.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden  
U.S. Senator

*Spectrum  
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THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

April 27, 2015

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
United States Senate  
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

Thank you for your letter concerning the impact of the upcoming voluntary Broadcast Television Spectrum Incentive Auction on TV translator stations.

I agree that TV translators play an important role in providing information to consumers and businesses in rural communities. As you note, in the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act, Congress did not provide LPTV or TV translator stations with the same legal protection as full power and Class A stations. The Commission is taking steps, however, to help ensure that the important programming content these stations provide continues to reach viewers.

To help accommodate some of the needs of LPTV and TV translator stations, these stations will be permitted to remain on their existing channels during the transition period after the Incentive Auction, unless or until they are notified that they interfere with the primary service. Licensees of operating LPTV and TV translator stations that are displaced by a broadcast television station or a wireless service provider, or whose channel is reserved as a guard band, will be permitted to submit an application for displacement relief in a special filing window.

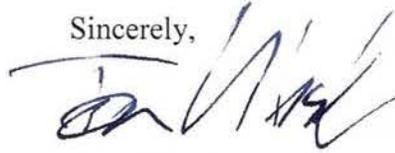
Additionally, in October 2014, the Commission initiated a proceeding to address other LPTV and TV translator issues related to the Incentive Auction. This proceeding explores options that may help these stations continue to serve their communities. We anticipate completing this proceeding in advance of the auction.

In the Incentive Auction, the Commission intends to offer a uniform number of spectrum licenses in most markets across the country. The Commission will not offer more spectrum in an area than the amount offered in most markets nationwide. Rather, the Commission will offer the same amount of spectrum nationwide in all areas where sufficient spectrum is available. In other words, the fact that more spectrum may be available in rural areas than in urban areas does not mean that additional rural spectrum will be made available for auction in those locations.

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I appreciate your interest and concerns. Your letter will be placed in the appropriate record.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Tom Wheeler