

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 9, 2015

347  
Received & Insp. tel

APR 14 2015

FCC Mail Room

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

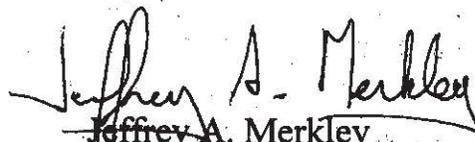
Dear Chairman Wheeler,

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will soon be moving forward with the broadcast television incentive auction. I ask that during this process, the FCC work to minimize the impact that spectrum repackaging will have on television translators and low-power television stations that serve rural communities in Oregon and across the country.

As you know, television translators and low-power television stations are deployed across the country to help extend the reach of full-power television stations and provide over-the-air service to areas where it wouldn't exist otherwise. These stations are often owned and operated by local entities such as schools, churches, and small businesses that do not have the resources to re-tool their broadcast capabilities should it change when the spectrum is repackaged.

These local stations provide critical services that many of my constituents, especially in rural parts of Oregon, rely on for entertainment, education, news, weather, and emergency situations. While the repackaging process will inevitably lead to changes for translators and low-power television stations, the FCC should ensure that access to quality over-the-air television is preserved.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

June 3, 2015

The Honorable Jeff Merkley  
United States Senate  
107 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Merkley:

Thank you for your letter concerning the impact of the upcoming voluntary Broadcast Television Spectrum Incentive Auction on rural, over-the-air, low power TV (LPTV), and TV translator stations in Oregon.

I agree that LPTV station and TV translators provide important services upon which many consumers and businesses in rural communities rely. 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 translator stations following the auction, 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 translator issues related to the Incentive Auction. This proceeding explores options that may help LPTV and TV translators continue to serve their communities. In it, we seek comment on a possible extension of the low power digital transition deadline and channel sharing for LPTV stations, among other mitigating measures. We anticipate completing this proceeding prior to the auction.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler".

Tom Wheeler