



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 20, 2015

The Honorable Leonard Lance
U.S. House of Representatives
133 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lance:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to allow wireless microphone users in the performing arts using fewer than 50 microphones to reserve vacant TV channels by registering in the Television White Space (TVWS) Database. Your view is very important, and please know that the Commission is trying to strike the right balance to allow both unlicensed and licensed users to operate efficiently.

The action the Commission took in 2014 on redefining the entities that are eligible for a Part 74 license and may seek protection in the database to groups that regularly use 50 microphones or more was a measured approach. It was meant to strike an appropriate balance in providing the benefits of a license for entities and events that have a demonstrated need, while ensuring that spectrum is shared effectively with existing Part 74 operations and remains available for other uses, including TV white space devices.

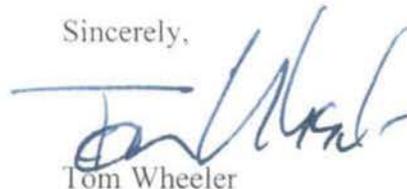
In the May 2014 *Incentive Auction Report and Order*, the Commission adopted rules to implement the broadcast television spectrum incentive auction, which will involve reorganizing the existing television band and repurposing a portion of the UHF television band for new wireless broadband services. Until the incentive auction is completed and the Commission establishes the final 600 MHz band plan, the impact of repurposing spectrum on wireless microphone users will not be known. The Commission has provided for a multi-year period after the auction during which wireless microphone operators may continue to access the 600 MHz band on a secondary basis. This 39-month period will help smooth the transition as wireless microphone operators obtain new equipment and transition out of the repurposed 600 MHz band to other spectrum, including vacant channels and guard bands in the post-auction 600 MHz band.

On August 6, 2015, the Commission adopted an order amending the Part 15 rules which will allow unlicensed wireless microphone users who do not qualify for a Part 74 license to operate as unlicensed devices in the TV bands and the new 600 MHz service band after the incentive auction. Unlicensed wireless microphones, as well as white space devices, will continue to operate on vacant channels in the TV bands on an equal basis and shall not cause interference to adjacent licensees, although vacant channels may be fewer in number in certain

geographic areas. The *Part 15 Report and Order* eliminates the current rule that permits unlicensed microphone users to register with the TVWS Database to reserve vacant TV channels for their use, but this will not occur until 18 months after the effective date of the rule change or no later than the conclusion of the incentive auction, whichever comes first. However, after the incentive auction and subsequent repacking of television broadcasters, unlicensed microphone users will be able to operate in the 600 MHz guard bands and duplex gap on a shared basis with white space devices, and they may have some exclusive use in the guard bands depending on the amount of spectrum recovered in the auction.

I understand the importance of wireless microphones to the performing arts groups you highlight in your letter. The Commission will continue to work with the wireless microphone community to examine their long-term spectrum needs. I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



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August 20, 2015

The Honorable John Lewis
U.S. House of Representatives
343 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lewis:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to allow wireless microphone users in the performing arts using fewer than 50 microphones to reserve vacant TV channels by registering in the Television White Space (TVWS) Database. Your view is very important, and please know that the Commission is trying to strike the right balance to allow both unlicensed and licensed users to operate efficiently.

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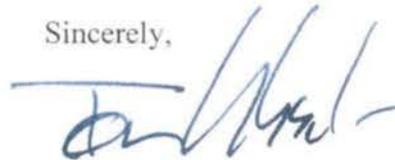
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August 20, 2015

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
U.S. House of Representatives
2110 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Nadler:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to allow wireless microphone users in the performing arts using fewer than 50 microphones to reserve vacant TV channels by registering in the Television White Space (TVWS) Database. Your view is very important, and please know that the Commission is trying to strike the right balance to allow both unlicensed and licensed users to operate efficiently.

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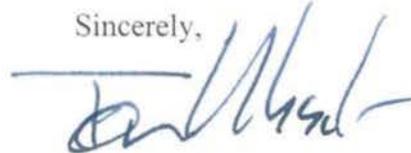
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Tom Wheeler



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August 20, 2015

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
U.S. House of Representatives
1318 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Pingree:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to allow wireless microphone users in the performing arts using fewer than 50 microphones to reserve vacant TV channels by registering in the Television White Space (TVWS) Database. Your view is very important, and please know that the Commission is trying to strike the right balance to allow both unlicensed and licensed users to operate efficiently.

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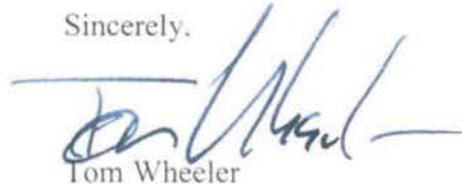
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Tom Wheeler



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August 20, 2015

The Honorable Louise M. Slaughter
U.S. House of Representatives
2469 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Slaughter:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to allow wireless microphone users in the performing arts using fewer than 50 microphones to reserve vacant TV channels by registering in the Television White Space (TVWS) Database. Your view is very important, and please know that the Commission is trying to strike the right balance to allow both unlicensed and licensed users to operate efficiently.

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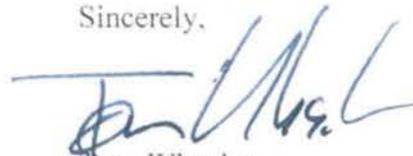
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Tom Wheeler



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August 20, 2015

The Honorable Don Young
U.S. House of Representatives
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Young:

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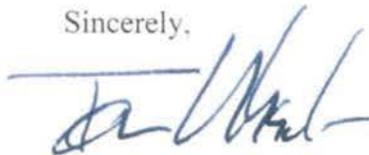
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