

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

Received & Inspected

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FCC Mail Room

June 8, 2015

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

We write to you regarding the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Fiscal Year 2016 budget request, which includes plans to close two-thirds of the FCC field offices across the country and cut nearly half of the field agents staffing those offices. We have reservations about the FCC's proposal, particularly as it pertains to the closing of the Boston field office.

The FCC is uniquely positioned in its authority and expertise to address radio spectrum interference issues. Field offices are on the front lines for onsite investigations and inspections, helping resolve a variety of interference problems, including public safety spectrum issues. The agency's field offices have served the public with proactive spectrum enforcement efforts in this area. We are concerned that the proposal to close sixteen field offices could jeopardize the agency's ability to prevent spectrum interference.

The FCC's Boston field office is the point of contact for interference complaints throughout New England's six states. Reducing and relocating Boston's agents could disconnect the FCC from local incidents, potentially challenging the FCC's ability to maintain the 24-hour response standard. This is a concern given the public safety communications interference the FCC Boston field office handles, involving local police departments and emergency response organizations, as well as the Federal Aviation Administration at the region's airports.

We support efforts to update and modernize agency policies in order to effectively administer laws and regulations, yet such measures should be balanced with the Commission's ability to carry out its duties in a timely fashion. We urge the FCC to carefully consider these concerns in order to reach a balanced solution that safeguards local area knowledge and public safety in New England and

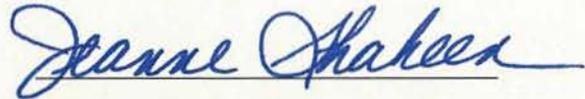
throughout the country, while also providing for more streamlined operations of the field offices.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Kelly A. Ayotte
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

September 22, 2015

The Honorable Kelly Ayotte
United States Senate
144 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Ayotte:

Thank you for your letter concerning the FCC's July 16th *Field Modernization Order* and its potential impact on radio spectrum interference issues. I appreciate your letter and we have taken your views into account in the July decision. I believe that the Commission's final decision in this matter represents a fact-based, balanced approach to modernizing a 20-year-old field office structure that was out of step with current technology and budgetary limitations.

Although it is never easy to close underused federal facilities or improve management in ways that eliminate long-held positions, the Commission's goal was to maximize the effectiveness of its operations to meet 21st Century needs and realities. With that in mind, we studied a broad range of potential reorganization options, reviewed concerns with stakeholders and modified our contractor's initial recommendations to ensure nationwide enforcement coverage. Our final decision keeps the Boston Field Office open to address issues and ensure proper oversight in that region.

At this stage, the Commission has consulted with OMB and the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, and is initiating the first phase of the reorganization. Please be assured that as part of this implementation, we are maintaining a commitment to respond in a timely manner to interference issues anywhere in the nation, including responding to all public safety spectrum complaints within one day.

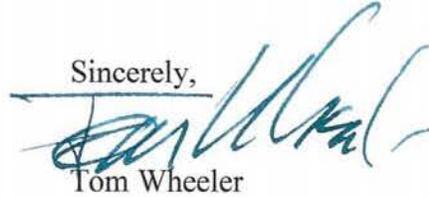
As a follow-up to our *Field Modernization Order*, the Enforcement Bureau released an August 27th *Public Notice* (PN) to enhance procedures for public safety and industry interference complaints. The PN outlined an escalation process for interference complaints that will also improve complainants' ability to stay informed of the status of their complaint. This process will streamline the interference complaint intake and response and result in more effective enforcement for our highest priority interference complaints.

Our *Field Modernization Order* and the August 27th PN are part of a comprehensive approach toward efficient enforcement. We see the future of enforcement as an efficient, holistic, and systematic process supported by better overall management and modern IT systems. I look forward to continuing our efforts to improve the Commission's enforcement

Page 2—The Honorable Kelly Ayotte

practices and I am certain that they will yield successful, long-lasting results. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

September 22, 2015

The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Collins:

Thank you for your letter concerning the FCC's July 16th *Field Modernization Order* and its potential impact on radio spectrum interference issues. I appreciate your letter and we have taken your views into account in the July decision. I believe that the Commission's final decision in this matter represents a fact-based, balanced approach to modernizing a 20-year-old field office structure that was out of step with current technology and budgetary limitations.

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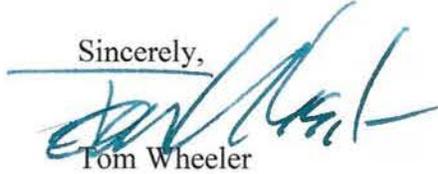
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Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

September 22, 2015

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Shaheen:

Thank you for your letter concerning the FCC's July 16th *Field Modernization Order* and its potential impact on radio spectrum interference issues. I appreciate your letter and we have taken your views into account in the July decision. I believe that the Commission's final decision in this matter represents a fact-based, balanced approach to modernizing a 20-year-old field office structure that was out of step with current technology and budgetary limitations.

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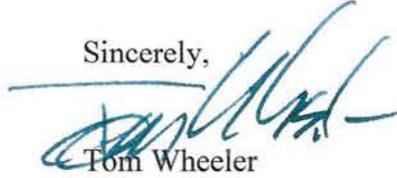
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Tom Wheeler