

Public ownership of broadcast airwaves was established by legislation and jurisprudence during the twentieth century. The FCC has been endowed with the public's trust to manage this publicly owned resource for the public good. As broadcast television networks prepare to begin broadcasting on digital signals, television broadcast airwaves will become available for other uses.

Because the broadcast airwaves are a publicly owned resource -- just as the national parks, the interstate highway system, and naval aircraft carriers are -- I expect that the FCC will fulfill its obligations to the public by using this valuable resource to serve the greatest number of American citizens.

Rather than selling off these airwaves to private corporations, I am joining my voice with thousands of others who are asking the FCC to utilize the airwaves for developing high-speed Internet access. We are not asking that all of the airwaves be designated for this use. But we do ask that at least 30 MHz of spectrum be made available for open and non-discriminatory Internet access.

Such a move will guarantee that new entrants have the opportunity to enter the market in competition with incumbent providers. In addition to utilizing a public resource fairly, this approach will allow for the next wave of technological innovation that is and has always been America's greatest strength. Additionally, it will level the playing field to encourage greater financial investment and competition among entrepreneurs, another key to America's economic success. I sincerely hope that the FCC will see the logic in this approach and act accordingly.