

To the members of the Federal Communications Commission:

I'm writing to urge you to open up currently unused parts of the TV spectrum (the "white spaces") for wireless broadband and other emerging technologies. I applaud the extraordinary steps the Commission has taken to realize the potential of TV white spaces to date, and encourage you to take this next step today.

I have personal experience with the challenges of extending broadband coverage to rural areas. The area where I live is not served by DSL or cable. The only choice today is a 5.8Ghz operator broadcasting from a TV tower 7 miles away. Unfortunately due to geographic constraints, most residents cannot receive this signal. As such, they have been limited to dial-up internet service.

Over the past year I have been able to change this on a small scale by repeating the service using 2.4Ghz wireless devices. While this works much of the time, it is not a practical solution for widespread deployment. The learning curve, labor, cost, and support required to identify, install, and maintain such line-of-sight networks is prohibitive.

Nonetheless, after surmounting the technical challenges, I was amazed to discover the value and importance of pervasive high speed internet access. Many of the people in this area are small business owners in low technology segments - gas station owners, surf instructors, screen writers, photographers, retailers, musicians, etc. Yet they rely on the internet to manage and succeed in their business. From remotely watching their stores to analyzing waves patterns on the beach, high speed internet has changed their lives.

This community is just one small example of the enormous problem our country faces in making high speed internet available to everyone. It is critical to our success as a nation, and we are way behind many parts of the world.

The potential benefits of freeing up this important public resource, more than three-quarters of which today is unused, are overwhelming.

The white spaces can:

- * Pave the way for universal wireless broadband access;
- * Extend broadband wireless to rural areas that currently aren't connected at all;
- * Enhance the reliability of public safety communications;
- * Enable distance learning for students in remote locations or for whom traditional classroom-based learning is impractical; and,
- * Bring high-speed mobile internet access to every high school and middle school in the country.

Opening up unused TV spectrum might be one of our best remaining chances to address the digital divide by creating affordable and truly universal broadband wireless coverage in the U.S.. I urge you to take this rare opportunity to connect millions more people to the Internet.

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