

To the members of the Federal Communications Commission:

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Here's my personal 2 cents interjected in this form letter. Things need to be more open. Here's my anecdote. I have a verizon blackberry with gps but verizon has purposefully disabled that gps so I can't use that functionality. In one sense they should be able to do put restrictions on how devices connecting to their waves work if they want. But why would disabling functionality on a 3rd party device I purchased be in their best interest in order for me to use the air waves? Is it a security concern? No way. The reality is they want to lock me into buying their GPS service which earns them an extra 10 bucks a month. If they enabled the GPS I could download a free application which runs on the phone and does pretty much the same thing for free. This sort of forcing me to use their service--and no one else--can only exist in an environment where they have too much power.

I don't know anything about the technicalities of whether this white space will interfere with existing tv signals or not and obviously that should be a huge part of the specific decision at hand. But it isn't the real issue. The real issue is that we need to move one way or another to a system where those who own the airwaves can't abuse their power. I see openness as a way to get there and hope we can move in that direction.

If giving the buyers less exclusivity means the waves are worth less to them...that's fine with me because it goes hand in hand with it being more valuable to us--the public, and ultimately the goal is to provide value to the public. When companies get ahead by reducing that value to us...it is time for a change.

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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.

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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