

Dear members of the Federal Communications Commission:

I live in a rural area with extremely limited access to the internet: no cable or broadband DSL is or will be available in my area anytime soon. Our only internet options are expensive and limited satellite service or dialup which is limited to a maximum 28.8kbps by our outdated phone lines. Because so many services and features of the internet require high speed internet, we are unable to use the internet to its full capacity.

I'm writing to urge you to open up currently unused parts of the TV spectrum (the "white spaces") for wireless broadband. 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 don't think most people realize how limited internet access is in many parts of our nation and how opening up white spaces can help equalize access to the internet. It is very frustrating to try to be an informed citizen only to be told to "go to our website" for video or other information and be unable to do so. It's difficult to engage in commerce or banking over the internet when service is slow and unreliable. It's high time that access to high speed internet service be thought of as a utility and be available at a reasonable price to all citizens.

In summary, some key reasons for opening up the white spaces are extending broadband wireless to rural areas that currently aren't connected at all; enhancing the reliability of public safety communications is very important since our area was severely affected by Hurricane Rita zone; and to enable distance learning for students in remote locations or for whom traditional classroom-based learning is impractical - the nearest 4 year college is an hour away.

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. Please help us out here in the hinterlands! We may not have high speed internet but we pay taxes and we vote. Thanks.

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