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23 October 2008

Mr. Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Mr. Martin:

I am extremely disappointed with the FCC's attempts to vote on the highly complicated and controversial rules for "white space" devices on November 4, a mere 20 days after the release of the Office of Engineering and Technology's technical report.

This proposal could have a devastating impact on television and it should not be rushed though the Commission without sufficient time for analysis and comment. The Commission has studied this issue for nearly 4 years yet it now intends to vote on the matter without any opportunity for public comment less than 3 weeks after the release of the report.

If these companies are allowed to manufacture and sell devices that ultimately cause interference to televisions and microphones, there will be no way to determine if the interference is coming from a next door neighbor, a passing car or even within one's own home. Moreover, once the unlicensed devices are in the market, there will be no way to extract them. The FCC lacks the means to find and shut down interfering devices.

There are ways in which the Commission could utilize the unused portions of the television spectrum without causing irreparable harm to television viewing. These approaches could be used to deliver broadband to unserved areas of the country immediately and would not cause interference to television.

The Commission should not vote on this matter without providing for public comment and I urge you to remove it from the November 4 meeting agenda.

Sincerely,

Gene Kirkconnell
Vice President/General Manager

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