

07-195

PAUL W. HODES
2ND DISTRICT, NEW HAMPSHIRE

COMMITTEE:
FINANCIAL SERVICES
OVERSIGHT AND
GOVERNMENT REFORM

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2902

July 29, 2010

FILED/ACCEPTED

AUG 18 2010

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I have received correspondence from one of my constituents in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District regarding use of the AWS-3 spectrum for free broadband services. I have included a copy of his concerns for your consideration.

I respectfully request that you inform me and my constituent of your response to the concern addressed by my constituent. I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Sincerely,

Paul W. Hodes
Member of Congress

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Adam Kennedy
27 Cross Street, Apartment 2
Jaffrey, NH 03452-5768

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List A B C D E

1317 LONGWORTH HOB
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-5206
FAX: (202) 225-2946

18 NORTH MAIN ST.
SUITE 400
CONCORD, NH 03301
PHONE: (603) 223-9814
FAX: (603) 223-9819

151 MAIN STREET
BEALIN, NH 03570
PHONE: (603) 752-4680

32 MAIN STREET
ROOM 110
LITTLETON, NH 03661
PHONE: (603) 444-8967

221 MAIN STREET
SUITE 201
NASHUA, NH 03080
PHONE: (603) 579-6913
FAX: (603) 579-6916

29 CENTER STREET
KEENE, NH 03431
PHONE: (603) 358-1023
FAX: (603) 358-1026

Dear Representative Hodes:

According to President Obama, "It is unacceptable that the United States ranks fifteenth in the world in broadband adoption. Here, in the country that invented the Internet, every child should have the chance to get online, and they'll get that chance when I'm President -- because that's how we'll strengthen America's competitiveness in the world." Over 18 months after President Obama's election, the FCC has yet to take any action to make broadband more affordable to the 100 million Americans that do not have access.

I am therefore writing to ask the FCC to vote before September 30, 2010 to approve use of the AWS-3 spectrum for free broadband services proposed by the County Executives of America ("CEA") and help make President Obama's promise a reality. The CEA project is a public-private partnership of leading counties that will provide free wireless broadband access to nearly 5 million Americans who cannot afford it.

It is crucial that the FCC approve use of the spectrum before September 30, 2010 in order for the CEA project to be eligible for Department of Commerce's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program ("BTOP") Grant. Because the CEA's BTOP application is consistent with the purposes of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, I urge the FCC to make spectrum available and the Department of Commerce to quickly grant the application.

Sincerely,

Adam Kennedy



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

August 5, 2010

In Reply Refer to:
PM - 1001261

Mr. Adam Kennedy
27 Cross Street
Apartment 2
Jaffrey, NH 03452-5768

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

We are writing in response to your letter to Representative Paul Hodes expressing your view that the FCC should move promptly to auction the AWS-3 band.

The Commission recognizes that broadband access is absolutely vital as an engine for social and economic opportunity, with the potential to promote job creation, facilitate educational advancements and improve public health and safety services. To this end, the National Broadband Plan, developed in accordance with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, recommends that the FCC explore a number of ways for addressing affordability barriers to broadband adoption and utilization, including free or very low-cost wireless broadband.

With respect to the AWS-3 spectrum band, the Plan recommends an analysis of the possibility of increasing the amount of spectrum available for wireless broadband by reallocating a portion of the 1.7 GHz band. The Plan also anticipates prompt action upon completion of the analysis. Accordingly, Commission staff is actively working to ensure that the timeframes contemplated in the Plan will be met and we anticipate timely action upon completion of the analysis.

A copy of your letter and this response will be placed in the rulemaking docket (WT Docket No. 07-195) so that it will be included in the record for this proceeding. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Blaise A. Scinto".

Blaise A. Scinto
Chief, Broadband Division
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

cc: Rep. Paul W. Hodes