

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 28, 2013

0222

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

Dear Mr. Chairman,

We write to you today in regards to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) adopted by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in the matter of "Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum through Incentive Auctions" which seeks comments on proposals to implement the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (Spectrum Act). It is critical to our nation's economy and the vibrancy of our communications infrastructure that the Spectrum Act (PL: 112-96) be implemented by the FCC with precision and according to Congressional intent.

As you are no doubt aware, this legislation includes specific safeguards designed to protect Ohioans that rely on over-the-air television. As you implement the incentive auction, we ask that the Commission pay close attention to our Ohio constituents and their access to local broadcast television services.

We believe that America's communications infrastructure should not only include the fastest 4G networks, but also the most innovative broadcast system in the world. The Spectrum Act was landmark legislation by authorizing voluntary incentive spectrum auctions which will help fulfill one of the National Broadband Plan goals and alleviate the spectrum crunch identified by the Commission. The increasing use of smartphones and tablets has led to an exponential growth in the demand for commercial mobile spectrum, a demand that far exceeds available supply. However, it is of the utmost importance that the FCC protects the public's ability to receive free television from local stations that remain on-the-air after the auction.

We applaud your attention to detail in this extremely complicated Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), and believe it is important that the FCC include even greater specificity in a number of areas as it advances this rulemaking, especially on how the Commission plans to coordinate with the Canadian and Mexican governments when repacking television stations along our country's northern and southern borders. This is of particular concern because of the potential for loss of service to our constituents in the Cleveland-Akron, Toledo and Youngstown television markets that could result from coordinating frequencies with Canadian broadcasters. Today, these media markets must coordinate interference protections with already congested markets such as Detroit, Erie, and Buffalo which leaves very little room for error with the Canadian government.

In Ohio, our diverse population has a strong reliance on over-the-air television, including over one million Ohioans who rely exclusively on free local television to get their news, information and weather, many of whom rely on in-language and in-culture broadcast programming. As witnessed four short years ago during our Nation's transition to digital television, moving television stations has the ability to cause consumer disruptions. Therefore, during the repacking of broadcasters, it will be important to minimize coverage area disruption.

Included in the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 is a \$1.75 billion "TV Broadcaster Relocation Fund" for the Commission to pay for the forced relocation of television broadcasters that opt not to participate in the incentive auction. We strongly encourage the FCC to treat that fund as a framework for the repacking process. The \$1.75 billion fund gives the Commission the necessary flexibility to appropriately reimburse each repacked television station, and hopefully leave some excess resources for the general Treasury.

The FCC's plan should take special care to minimize harmful interference between wireless and broadcast services. No consumer - whether a wireless or broadcast consumer or both - should be left with harmful interference. While moving with all deliberate speed, the FCC should take the necessary time to ensure that no consumer's wireless devices or televisions do not work properly due to harmful interference.

It is critical that the FCC maintain an open process so that all participants are clear on the auction rules and implications as the NPRM and the final rule progresses. Whatever final plan the Commission adopts, it is imperative that the process be fully transparent, disclosing detailed plans to the public at the earliest possible opportunity. Thank you in advance for your timely consideration of our request. We look forward to working with you to ensure the U.S. continues to be the global technological leader and innovator through the promotion of effective spectrum management policies.

Sincerely,



Robert Latta
Member of Congress



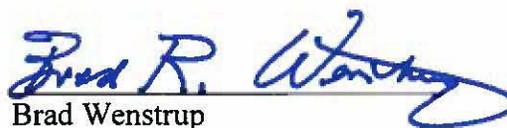
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



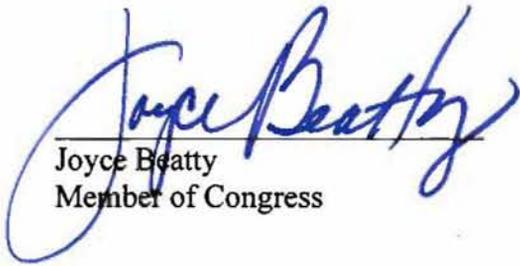
Rob Portman
United States Senator



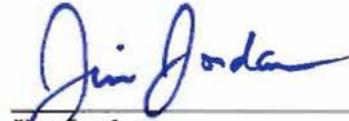
Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



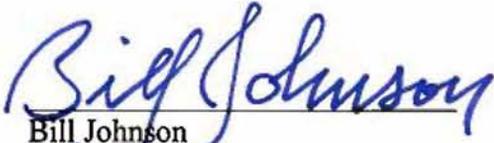
Brad Wenstrup
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



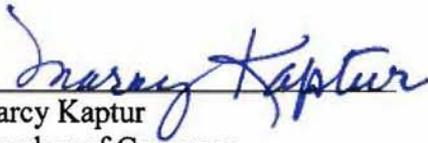
Jim Jordan
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



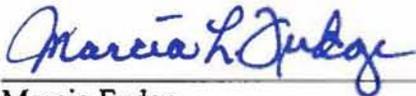
Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Michael Turner
Member of Congress



Marcia Fudge
Member of Congress



Patrick Tiberi
Member of Congress



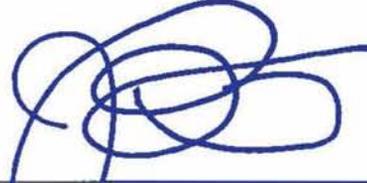
Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



David Joyce
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers
Member of Congress



James Renacci
Member of Congress



Federal Communications Commission
Office of Legislative Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20554

Office of the Director

March 7, 2013

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
United States Senate
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Brown:

Thank you for your letter commenting on the Commission's *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* to implement the broadcast incentive auctions authorized by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. The Commission's work in its incentive auction proceeding is guided by a set of core goals and principles that include maximizing broadcaster participation by, among other things, making the auction process as transparent and easy-to-understand as possible. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Gregory Guice
Director
Office of Legislative Affairs



Federal Communications Commission
Office of Legislative Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20554

Office of the Director

March 7, 2013

The Honorable Steve Chabot
U.S. House of Representatives
2351 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Chabot:

Thank you for your letter commenting on the Commission's *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* to implement the broadcast incentive auctions authorized by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. The Commission's work in its incentive auction proceeding is guided by a set of core goals and principles that include maximizing broadcaster participation by, among other things, making the auction process as transparent and easy-to-understand as possible. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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Gregory Guice
Director
Office of Legislative Affairs



Federal Communications Commission
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Washington, D.C. 20554

Office of the Director

March 7, 2013

The Honorable Marcia L. Fudge
U.S. House of Representatives
1019 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Fudge:

Thank you for your letter commenting on the Commission's *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* to implement the broadcast incentive auctions authorized by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. The Commission's work in its incentive auction proceeding is guided by a set of core goals and principles that include maximizing broadcaster participation by, among other things, making the auction process as transparent and easy-to-understand as possible. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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March 7, 2013

The Honorable Bob Gibbs
U.S. House of Representatives
329 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gibbs:

Thank you for your letter commenting on the Commission's *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* to implement the broadcast incentive auctions authorized by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. The Commission's work in its incentive auction proceeding is guided by a set of core goals and principles that include maximizing broadcaster participation by, among other things, making the auction process as transparent and easy-to-understand as possible. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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Gregory Guice
Director
Office of Legislative Affairs



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Washington, D.C. 20554**

Office of the Director

March 7, 2013

The Honorable Bill Johnson
U.S. House of Representatives
317 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Johnson:

Thank you for your letter commenting on the Commission's *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* to implement the broadcast incentive auctions authorized by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. The Commission's work in its incentive auction proceeding is guided by a set of core goals and principles that include maximizing broadcaster participation by, among other things, making the auction process as transparent and easy-to-understand as possible. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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Gregory Guice
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March 7, 2013

The Honorable Jim Jordan
U.S. House of Representatives
1524 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Jordan:

Thank you for your letter commenting on the Commission's *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* to implement the broadcast incentive auctions authorized by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. The Commission's work in its incentive auction proceeding is guided by a set of core goals and principles that include maximizing broadcaster participation by, among other things, making the auction process as transparent and easy-to-understand as possible. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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March 7, 2013

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
U.S. House of Representatives
2186 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Kaptur:

Thank you for your letter commenting on the Commission's *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* to implement the broadcast incentive auctions authorized by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. The Commission's work in its incentive auction proceeding is guided by a set of core goals and principles that include maximizing broadcaster participation by, among other things, making the auction process as transparent and easy-to-understand as possible. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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Gregory Guice
Director
Office of Legislative Affairs



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Washington, D.C. 20554**

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March 7, 2013

The Honorable Robert E. Latta
U.S. House of Representatives
1323 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Latta:

Thank you for your letter commenting on the Commission's *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* to implement the broadcast incentive auctions authorized by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. The Commission's work in its incentive auction proceeding is guided by a set of core goals and principles that include maximizing broadcaster participation by, among other things, making the auction process as transparent and easy-to-understand as possible. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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March 7, 2013

The Honorable Rob Portman
United States Senate
524 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Portman:

Thank you for your letter commenting on the Commission's *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* to implement the broadcast incentive auctions authorized by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. The Commission's work in its incentive auction proceeding is guided by a set of core goals and principles that include maximizing broadcaster participation by, among other things, making the auction process as transparent and easy-to-understand as possible. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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March 7, 2013

The Honorable Jim Renacci
U.S. House of Representatives
130 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Renacci:

Thank you for your letter commenting on the Commission's *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* to implement the broadcast incentive auctions authorized by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. The Commission's work in its incentive auction proceeding is guided by a set of core goals and principles that include maximizing broadcaster participation by, among other things, making the auction process as transparent and easy-to-understand as possible. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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Office of the Director

March 7, 2013

The Honorable Timothy J. Ryan
U.S. House of Representatives
1421 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Ryan:

Thank you for your letter commenting on the Commission's *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* to implement the broadcast incentive auctions authorized by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. The Commission's work in its incentive auction proceeding is guided by a set of core goals and principles that include maximizing broadcaster participation by, among other things, making the auction process as transparent and easy-to-understand as possible. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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March 7, 2013

The Honorable Steve Stivers
U.S. House of Representatives
1007 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Stivers:

Thank you for your letter commenting on the Commission's *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* to implement the broadcast incentive auctions authorized by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. The Commission's work in its incentive auction proceeding is guided by a set of core goals and principles that include maximizing broadcaster participation by, among other things, making the auction process as transparent and easy-to-understand as possible. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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March 7, 2013

The Honorable Patrick Tiberi
U.S. House of Representatives
106 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Tiberi:

Thank you for your letter commenting on the Commission's *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* to implement the broadcast incentive auctions authorized by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. The Commission's work in its incentive auction proceeding is guided by a set of core goals and principles that include maximizing broadcaster participation by, among other things, making the auction process as transparent and easy-to-understand as possible. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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March 7, 2013

The Honorable Michael Turner
U.S. House of Representatives
2454 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Turner:

Thank you for your letter commenting on the Commission's *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* to implement the broadcast incentive auctions authorized by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. The Commission's work in its incentive auction proceeding is guided by a set of core goals and principles that include maximizing broadcaster participation by, among other things, making the auction process as transparent and easy-to-understand as possible. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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