

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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Received & Inspected

March 28, 2013

MAR 30, 2013

FCC Mail Room

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
U.S. Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Having recently passed the one-year anniversary of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (the Act), we are writing to you with respect to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC or Commission) implementation of the incentive auction provisions enacted last year. Specifically, as Senators and Members of Congress from a state with international borders, we are interested in ensuring that the Commission works with Canada and Mexico to preserve opportunities for broadcasting, as well as maximizing the amount of nationwide spectrum made available to meet our nation's demand for licensed mobile wireless broadband.

Section 6403(b)(1)(B) of the Act states that "subject to international coordination along the border with Mexico and Canada," the Commission can "make such reassignments of television channels as the Commission considers appropriate" to make available spectrum to carry out the forward auction. This is an extremely important provision of the Act. Border coordination impacts all television stations within 250 miles of the border with Canada. In order to maximize the amount of spectrum available for broadband, produce auction revenues that provide \$7 billion for the buildout of a nationwide public safety broadband network, and preserve opportunities for over-the-air broadcasting, the Commission will need to work expeditiously with our neighbors to the north and south to coordinate operations.

We know that successful coordination with our neighbors is possible. During the DTV transition, the FCC undertook a comprehensive process to pre-approve frequency changes along the northern and southern borders to ease the impact of the transition on viewers and television broadcasters. With that in mind, we would like an update on the status of international coordination efforts. **We request that you respond to the following questions by Tuesday, April 9, 2013:**

1. What is the current status of coordination efforts with the Canadian or Mexican governments?
2. What is the Commission's timeline for international coordination?

3. What are the significant milestones that must be reached to complete the coordination?
4. Who will represent the FCC during these discussions? What other U.S. government officials will be participating?
5. When does the FCC expect the coordination efforts to be finalized with Canada and Mexico? Is there a target date for completion?

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter. Please submit your responses to the delegation in writing to Mark Ratner in Congressman Upton's office. Should you have any questions, please contact Mark at telephone number 202-225-3761.

Sincerely,



Debbie Stabenow
U.S. Senator



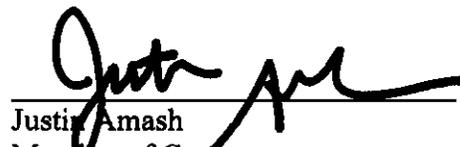
Carl Levin
U.S. Senator



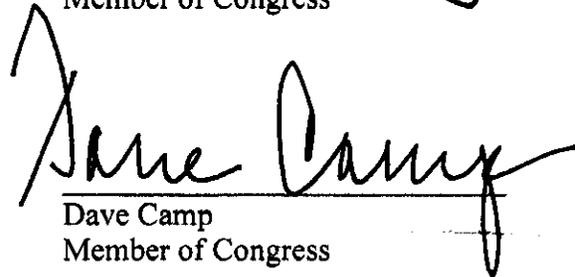
Dan Benishek, M.D.
Member of Congress



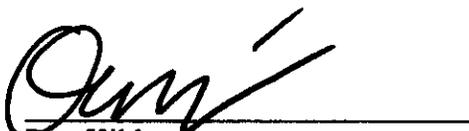
Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress



Justin Amash
Member of Congress



Dave Camp
Member of Congress



Dan Kildee
Member of Congress



Fred Upton
Member of Congress

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Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



Mike Rogers
Member of Congress



Sander Levin
Member of Congress



Candice S. Miller
Member of Congress



Kerry Bentivolio
Member of Congress



John D. Dingell
Member of Congress



John Conyers
Member of Congress



Gary Peters
Member of Congress

James M. Smith



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

April 22, 2013

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
United States Senate
133 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Stabenow:

Thank you for your March 28th letter regarding the importance of international coordination to the incentive auction process, particularly for our border states. The Commission is keenly aware of the importance of coordination with both Canada and Mexico, and I share your confidence that the coordination with our neighboring countries will be successful. Enclosed, please find a letter from Gary Epstein, Chair of the Commission's Incentive Auction Task Force, answering the specific questions posed in your letter.

If you have any additional questions or need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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Julius Genachowski

Enclosure



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

April 22, 2013

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Gary M. Epstein
Chair
Incentive Auction Task Force



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

April 22, 2013

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Justin Amash
U.S. House of Representatives
114 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Amash:

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Gary M. Epstein
Chair
Incentive Auction Task Force



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

April 22, 2013

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Dan Benishek
U.S. House of Representatives
514 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Benishek:

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Gary M. Epstein
Chair
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

April 22, 2013

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The Honorable Kerry Bentivolio
U.S. House of Representatives
226 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Bentivolio:

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Chair
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April 22, 2013

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CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Dave Camp
U.S. House of Representatives
341 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Incentive Auction Task Force



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April 22, 2013

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U.S. House of Representatives
2426 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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The Commission and State Department will continue using established coordination processes (*e.g.* the U.S.-Canada Radio Technical Liaison Committee (RTLCC) and U.S.-Mexico High Level Consultative Commission on Telecommunications (HLCC)) for regular teleconferences and/or meetings with Canadian and Mexican telecommunications officials.

2. What is the Commission's timeline for international coordination?

As is typical, our international coordination efforts will be ongoing. We intend to have sufficient arrangements in place in advance of the incentive auction to provide auction participants and non-participants alike enough information to make needed business decisions.

3. What are the significant milestones that must be reached to complete the coordination?

As in any international negotiation, there are several unique stages, and progression from one stage to the next depends on a variety of factors. We anticipate one of the first areas where the United States will reach initial understandings with its Canadian and Mexican counterparts will concern the methodologies to be used for interference scenarios for television and future