

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 25, 2013

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

Improved access to wireless broadband services has provided economic and social benefits to our country and as the demand for this service continues to rise, interoperability is more important than ever. We write today to respectfully request that the Federal Communications Commission act quickly to ensure interoperability in the lower 700 MHz band, which will increase opportunities for competition, innovation, and rural deployment.

As you know, the 700 MHz frequency band was cleared through the digital television switch and auctioned to mobile broadband providers, raising nearly \$20 billion for the U.S. Treasury for licenses to use this taxpayer-owned resource, including over \$13 billion in winning bids for licenses in the Lower 700 MHz band. Carriers are now using the 700 MHz band to deploy 4G LTE mobile broadband services. Interoperability will allow wireless carriers and consumers – especially Americans living in rural areas – to maximize the benefits and utility of these investments to meet the growing demands for mobile broadband. Without interoperability in the 700 MHz band consumers would almost certainly be subjected to higher prices and reduced variety of product offerings.

Ensuring interoperability in the 700 MHz band will have enormous public and economic benefits by providing consumers access high-quality mobile devices at an affordable cost and spurring innovation and growth by requiring market-dominant wireless carriers to play with smaller wireless carriers, which largely operate in rural and underserved areas. We respectfully urge you to act quickly to ensure interoperability in the lower 700 MHz band. Failing to act would interfere with the Commission's goals of promoting efficient use of the spectrum and vibrant competition in the marketplace.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to our continued work in this area.


Ron Wyden
U.S. Senator

Sincerely,


Lisa Murkowski
U.S. Senator



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

May 17, 2013

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
223 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

Thank you for your letter regarding the interoperability in the lower 700 MHz band. I appreciate your interest in this matter and am pleased to provide the enclosed letter on this issue from the Chief of the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "JG", written over the printed name Julius Genachowski.

Julius Genachowski



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

May 17, 2013

The Honorable Ron Wyden
223 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

Thank you for your letter urging interoperability in the lower 700 MHz band. I value your leadership on these matters. Promoting competition is a fundamental goal of the Commission, and I share your concern about barriers to competition in the mobile marketplace, including a lack of interoperability. Your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

The Commission continues active engagement with interested stakeholders investigating the interoperability challenges in the lower 700 MHz band. Your letter highlights many of the benefits that can result from more harmonized spectrum usage in this band. The Commission received substantial input in response to its *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, and senior staff is carefully reviewing the technical and policy considerations raised in the record. In particular, earlier this year, proponents of interoperability filed detailed information regarding the costs and benefits of requiring interoperability. This information was a valuable supplement to the previous record, and staff has evaluated it, in addition to more recent cost/benefit and technical filings, closely.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ruth Milkman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ruth Milkman
Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

May 17, 2013

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski:

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Julius Genachowski



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

May 17, 2013

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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Ruth Milkman
Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau