

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

0659

July 1, 2013

The Honorable Mignon Clyburn
Acting Chairwoman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Acting Chairwoman Clyburn:

We write to address the Federal Communications Commission's upcoming spectrum license auction and its possible impact on television viewers in Utah.

We laud the FCC for developing an incentive auction as a means to alleviate the usage constraints building in our wireless networks. As presently planned, the FCC will allow current licensees to relinquish their spectrum assignments so that the Commission can repackage and relicense the broadcast television bands to other commercial entities. As part of the plan, we are also hopeful that the FCC will design a robust bidding process open to all in order to generate the highest revenues possible as was envisioned by Congress.

We recognize that this program is essential to America's future. Our use of wireless technology has increased astronomically in the last decade, and our use of wireless networks will only continue to rise. If nothing is done, America's economic and technological development will stagnate; we will lose productivity, and our infrastructure will be unable to support our technology-based society.

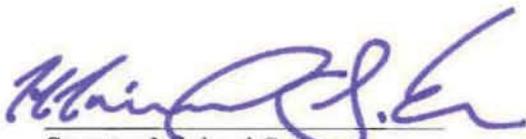
As important as the incentive auctions will be, we respectfully ask that the Commission take into account the impact each auction may have on the 54 million Americans, including more than 250,000 households in Utah, that rely exclusively on broadcast television to obtain newscasts, public service announcements, and entertainment content and work to protect the free market principles that will best accomplish the important objective of ensuring that spectrum is put to its best and most efficient use.

Utah has many rural communities which rely heavily on broadcast television to obtain critical information. Our state's reliance on broadcast television is particularly underscored by the fact that Utah uses 753 active translators to relay signals, none of which are owned by private entities. We are concerned that the spectrum repackaging may have a detrimental impact on the ability of these communities to receive broadcast television, especially in cases of severe weather or emergencies.

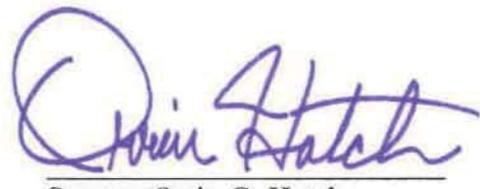
Letter to FCC Acting Chairwoman Clyburn
July 1, 2013
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We commend the Commission for moving forward with the incentive auctions and hope the program will relieve the pressing needs of businesses, communities, and individuals. In moving forward, however, we strongly encourage the FCC to give meaningful attention to the Americans who are served by broadcast television, especially those living in rural areas, as it moves forward with the rulemaking process.

Sincerely,



Senator Michael S. Lee



Senator Orrin G. Hatch



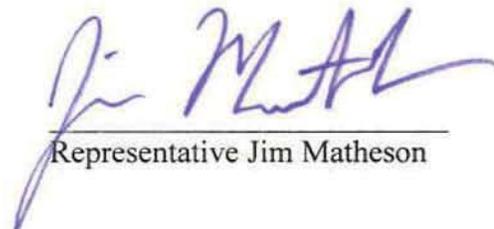
Representative Rob Bishop



Representative Jason Chaffetz



Representative Chris Stewart



Representative Jim Matheson



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 21, 2013

Mignon L. Clyburn
Commissioner

The Honorable Jim Matheson
U.S. House of Representatives
2211 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Matheson:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the incentive auctions as they affect rural areas, particularly the effect on TV translators. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

One of the core objectives of the incentive auction is to provide for a healthy broadcast industry, and we are working to ensure that it does. Importantly, participation in the incentive auction is completely voluntary and no full-power or Class A low power television (LPTV) stations will be forced to participate or go off the air.

As required by the Spectrum Act, all full power and Class A broadcast television stations that do not participate in the reverse auction, or participate and do not submit winning bids, will stay on the air and either remain on their present channels or be repacked to new channels in the same band. The Spectrum Act also stipulates that the Commission use "all reasonable efforts" to preserve the coverage areas and populations served by full power and Class A stations that remain on the air. The Commission will provide broadcasters with the full protections required by the statute.

The Spectrum Act, however, decrees that TV translator and non-Class A LPTV stations are not eligible to participate in the reverse auction and are not entitled to preservation of their service in the repacking. Recognizing the potential impact on LPTV and translator stations, the Commission has sought comment on, and currently is considering, measures to help ensure that the important programming they provide continues to reach viewers.

With respect to the amount of spectrum that the Commission will reclaim in rural areas, in the *Incentive Auction Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* the Commission identified the ability to accommodate varying levels of spectrum recovery in different markets as an important objective in designing the new 600 MHz band plan. By implementing a band plan that supports variation between markets, we would not be forced to limit the auction to the amount of spectrum available in the least cleared markets. However, our goal is to recover a consistent amount of spectrum in the vast majority of the country's markets and, while we may recover less spectrum in constrained markets, such as some urban areas, we are not contemplating clearing more than our national baseline in rural markets.

Page 2—The Honorable Jim Matheson

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

Sincerely,

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Mignon L. Clyburn



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 21, 2013

Mignon L. Clyburn
Commissioner

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senate
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hatch:

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Mignon L. Clyburn



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 21, 2013

Mignon L. Clyburn
Commissioner

The Honorable Rob Bishop
U.S. House of Representatives
123 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Bishop:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the incentive auctions as they affect rural areas, particularly the effect on TV translators. 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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Mignon L. Clyburn



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 21, 2013

Mignon L. Clyburn
Commissioner

The Honorable Jason Chaffetz
U.S. House of Representatives
1032 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Chaffetz:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 21, 2013

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The Honorable Mike Lee
United States Senate
825 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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