Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

1089

October 28, 2013

Honorable Mignon Clyburn
Acting Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Clyburn:

When Congress adopted the law to auction broadcast spectrum we also emphasized that the Commission should preserve the over-the-air broadcasting service for the public and ensure those companies that remain in the broadcast business have adequate spectrum to service the public. As the Commission implements this law, we write to stress the importance of one such technology: wireless microphones. Churchgoers, sports fans, film buffs and other constituents benefit from this efficient and reliable technology. Accordingly, the Commission's final spectrum auction and repacking regulations should preserve sufficient bandwidth for wireless microphones. As you develop the spectrum rules, we hope that you will keep in mind the following institutions that depend heavily on wireless microphones:

- **Places of worship:** Churches, temples, and other places of worship use wireless microphones to deliver crystal-clear sermons to their congregations. Ministers are no longer tethered to one spot in the church; they may move freely about to connect with the entire congregation. For this reason, many large and small churches have invested thousands of dollars in wireless microphone systems.

- **Music industry:** From Nashville to Las Vegas, from large arenas to small clubs, wireless microphones are vital to musical artists in the creation and presentation of music. Wireless microphones are ubiquitous in the music industry and make both concerts and studio sessions possible. Any FCC decision that impaired the ability of the music industry to use wireless microphones would hurt artists, the record companies, venue operators and fans.

- **Journalists:** Television and radio reporters use wireless microphones to provide live coverage of breaking news. Unencumbered by wires, journalists can agilely interview sources at the scene without the entanglement of cords.

- **Sports:** Every major professional sports league depends on wireless microphones at live games. Using wireless microphones, National Football League coaches relay plays to their quarterbacks via wireless microphones, Major League Baseball umpires announce their calls, and sideline reporters interview players and coaches. National Basketball Association refs control the clock with wireless mics. Because wireless microphones

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transmit high-quality audio, sports broadcasters can capture the swish of a net, the thwack of a bat, the punt of a pigskin and the glide of a puck.

- **Theater:** Performing arts venues rely on wireless microphones to transmit crystal-clear songs and dialogue to the audience. Because wireless microphones are small, they can be unobtrusively hidden in actors' costumers. For this reason, many large venues have invested in dozens of wireless microphones. For instance, the John F. Kennedy Performing Arts Center uses up to 48 wireless microphones and instruments for a single performance.

- **Film industry:** Wireless microphones enable the film and entertainment industry to produce films and television programs that are admired worldwide. Wireless microphones are an efficient and low-cost alternative to boom mics and other labor-intensive sound systems.

To provide these vital services via wireless microphones reliably, organizations must have adequate access to spectrum. The Commission recognized this need in 2010, when it allocated two unused television channels exclusively to wireless microphones. The Commission reasonably allocated a tiny sliver of the nation's spectrum to a technology that provides significant social benefits.

In the current spectrum auction and repacking rulemaking, the Commission indicated it was considering elimination of these two designated channels. Some have advocated that wireless microphone users would have to compete for bandwidth with a growing number of mobile broadband devices and other heavy spectrum users. Eliminating these two reserved channels would increase interference for wireless microphone users. They would no longer be able to depend on wireless microphones as a vital and secure way to serve the public.

In light of the overwhelming benefits of wireless microphones, and the increased potential of interference from mobile broadband, we urge you to retain the two channels that are designated for wireless microphones. We must ensure that churches, sports leagues, filmmakers and others can continue to use wireless microphones for clear, reliable, and safe communications.

Thank you for considering this matter, and we look forward to working with you to promote the development and use of innovative communication technologies such as wireless microphones.

Sincerely,

Marsha Blackburn

Rep. Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush

Rep. Bobby Rush
Member of Congress

Rep. Mike Pompeo
Member of Congress

Rep. Eliot Engel
Member of Congress

Rep. Joseph Pitts
Member of Congress

Rep. Gene Green
Member of Congress

Rep. Leonard Lance
Member of Congress

Rep. Ben Ray Luján
Member of Congress

Rep. Pete Olson
Member of Congress

Rep. Gus Bilirakis
Member of Congress

Rep. Billy Long
Member of Congress

cc: Ms. Marlene Dortch, Secretary (Docket Nos. 08-166, 08-167, 10-24, and 12-26

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Mignon L. Clyburn
Commissioner

November 21, 2013

The Honorable Eliot L. Engel
U.S. House of Representatives
2161 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Engel:

Thank you for your letter concerning the importance of preserving sufficient bandwidth for wireless microphones as the Commission considers how to proceed in its incentive auction rulemaking. I agree with you that many important institutions in our country – including places of worship, the music industry, journalists, theater, sports, and the film industry – provide a wide variety of beneficial services through use of wireless microphones.

In its incentive auction proceeding, the Commission is evaluating how best to accommodate these wireless microphone operations as it repacks the broadcast television bands. Many commenters in this proceeding have underscored the important benefits of wireless microphones, and also have advocated – as you do – that the Commission should continue to reserve two channels for wireless microphone users in the future. Your letter will be placed in the record of the proceeding and will be considered as part of the Commission's review as it endeavors to ensure that sufficient spectrum remains available for wireless microphones.

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

Sincerely,

Mignon L. Clyburn

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Mignon L. Clyburn
Commissioner

November 21, 2013

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis
U.S. House of Representatives
407 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Bilirakis:

Thank you for your letter concerning the importance of preserving sufficient bandwidth for wireless microphones as the Commission considers how to proceed in its incentive auction rulemaking. I agree with you that many important institutions in our country – including places of worship, the music industry, journalists, theater, sports, and the film industry – provide a wide variety of beneficial services through use of wireless microphones.

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Sincerely,

Mignon L. Clyburn

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Mignon L. Clyburn
Commissioner

November 21, 2013

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
U.S. House of Representatives
217 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Blackburn:

Thank you for your letter concerning the importance of preserving sufficient bandwidth for wireless microphones as the Commission considers how to proceed in its incentive auction rulemaking. I agree with you that many important institutions in our country – including places of worship, the music industry, journalists, theater, sports, and the film industry – provide a wide variety of beneficial services through use of wireless microphones.

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Sincerely,

Mignon L. Clyburn

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Mignon L. Clyburn
Commissioner

November 21, 2013

The Honorable Gene Green
U.S. House of Representatives
2470 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Green:

Thank you for your letter concerning the importance of preserving sufficient bandwidth for wireless microphones as the Commission considers how to proceed in its incentive auction rulemaking. I agree with you that many important institutions in our country – including places of worship, the music industry, journalists, theater, sports, and the film industry – provide a wide variety of beneficial services through use of wireless microphones.

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Sincerely,

Mignon L. Clyburn

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Mignon L. Clyburn
Commissioner

November 21, 2013

The Honorable Leonard Lance
U.S. House of Representatives
426 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lance:

Thank you for your letter concerning the importance of preserving sufficient bandwidth for wireless microphones as the Commission considers how to proceed in its incentive auction rulemaking. I agree with you that many important institutions in our country – including places of worship, the music industry, journalists, theater, sports, and the film industry – provide a wide variety of beneficial services through use of wireless microphones.

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Sincerely,

Mignon L. Clyburn

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Mignon L. Clyburn
Commissioner

November 21, 2013

The Honorable Billy Long
U.S. House of Representatives
1541 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Long:

Thank you for your letter concerning the importance of preserving sufficient bandwidth for wireless microphones as the Commission considers how to proceed in its incentive auction rulemaking. I agree with you that many important institutions in our country – including places of worship, the music industry, journalists, theater, sports, and the film industry – provide a wide variety of beneficial services through use of wireless microphones.

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

Sincerely,

Mignon L. Clyburn

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Mignon L. Clyburn
Commissioner

November 21, 2013

The Honorable Ben Ray Luján
U.S. House of Representatives
2446 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Luján:

Thank you for your letter concerning the importance of preserving sufficient bandwidth for wireless microphones as the Commission considers how to proceed in its incentive auction rulemaking. I agree with you that many important institutions in our country – including places of worship, the music industry, journalists, theater, sports, and the film industry – provide a wide variety of beneficial services through use of wireless microphones.

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Sincerely,

Mignon L. Clyburn

Congratulations, my friend.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Mignon L. Clyburn
Commissioner

November 21, 2013

The Honorable Pete Olson
U.S. House of Representatives
312 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Olson:

Thank you for your letter concerning the importance of preserving sufficient bandwidth for wireless microphones as the Commission considers how to proceed in its incentive auction rulemaking. I agree with you that many important institutions in our country – including places of worship, the music industry, journalists, theater, sports, and the film industry – provide a wide variety of beneficial services through use of wireless microphones.

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Sincerely,

Mignon L. Clyburn

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Mignon L. Clyburn
Commissioner

November 21, 2013

The Honorable Joseph R. Pitts
U.S. House of Representatives
420 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pitts:

Thank you for your letter concerning the importance of preserving sufficient bandwidth for wireless microphones as the Commission considers how to proceed in its incentive auction rulemaking. I agree with you that many important institutions in our country – including places of worship, the music industry, journalists, theater, sports, and the film industry – provide a wide variety of beneficial services through use of wireless microphones.

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Sincerely,

Mignon L. Clyburn

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Mignon L. Clyburn
Commissioner

November 21, 2013

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
U.S. House of Representatives
107 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pompeo:

Thank you for your letter concerning the importance of preserving sufficient bandwidth for wireless microphones as the Commission considers how to proceed in its incentive auction rulemaking. I agree with you that many important institutions in our country – including places of worship, the music industry, journalists, theater, sports, and the film industry – provide a wide variety of beneficial services through use of wireless microphones.

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Sincerely,

Mignon L. Clyburn

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Mignon L. Clyburn
Commissioner

November 21, 2013

The Honorable Bobby L. Rush
U.S. House of Representatives
2268 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rush:

Thank you for your letter concerning the importance of preserving sufficient bandwidth for wireless microphones as the Commission considers how to proceed in its incentive auction rulemaking. I agree with you that many important institutions in our country – including places of worship, the music industry, journalists, theater, sports, and the film industry – provide a wide variety of beneficial services through use of wireless microphones.

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Sincerely,

Mignon L. Clyburn

Hope you are well.