Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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