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**Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives**

Washington, DC 20515-3307

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MAY - 5 2014

FCC Mail Room

May 1, 2014

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The Honorable Thomas Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

Rural Americans rely on an array of communications services to meet their varied economic, security, and personal needs. Wireless service plays an increasingly important role in meeting these demands with each passing year. With this in mind, I urge the FCC to take all necessary steps to ensure that multiple interested parties have an opportunity to obtain scarce wireless spectrum to ensure that advanced mobile voice and broadband services are fully deployed in hard-to-serve areas.

As you know, wireless service helps drive investment and economic growth for consumers, farmers, ranchers, and businesses in sparsely-populated areas. It is not only essential for economic sustainability and job creation in rural communities, but also for the needs of first responders, schools, and health care centers. The benefits of wireless service for rural communities are incalculable.

However, wireless services in rural areas often do not meet consumers' needs and expectations. The upcoming incentive auction of 600 MHz spectrum will provide the FCC a rare opportunity to ensure a variety of interested providers are able to obtain quality spectrum and use it to deploy advanced services in all areas of the country. No additional spectrum with similar characteristics will be made available for the foreseeable future. In order to take full advantage of wireless opportunities, all providers need access to adequate spectrum to satisfy consumer demand for mobile services.

Policies that promote universal access and opportunities should be a goal as the Commission sets its spectrum priorities and adopts rules for the upcoming auction. Therefore, I urge the FCC to encourage wireless competition that will promote robust deployment in rural areas. Especially in the case of wireless services in rural markets, more must be done to support better service and consumer choice.

Sincerely,



Mike McIntyre  
Member of Congress

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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

June 11, 2014

The Honorable Mike McIntyre  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2428 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative McIntyre:

Thank you for sharing your views on the importance of the Broadcast Television Incentive Auction. The Incentive Auction is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to expand the benefits of mobile wireless coverage and competition to consumers across the Nation – particularly consumers in rural areas – offering more choices of wireless providers, lower prices, and higher quality mobile services.

A priority of the auction will be to ensure that nationwide providers that already possess significant amounts of low-band spectrum are not able to use the auction to keep competitors from accessing the spectrum they need to provide additional choices to consumers. This is vitally important to rural communities, where such spectrum is necessary for competitors to provide improved service to areas that currently have poor or no wireless coverage.

Additionally, the new 600 MHz Band will be licensed using Partial Economic Areas (PEAs), which will promote entry into the market by a broad range of wireless service providers. PEAs are smaller than Economic Areas (EAs), and divide urban and rural areas into separate service areas. Licensing the 600 MHz Band in this way will encourage entry by wireless providers that contemplate offering wireless service on a localized basis. PEAs are small enough to allow bidders to acquire spectrum over a limited coverage area—often only a few counties—which should enable small businesses and rural providers to compete with larger wireless providers in these areas.

Designed with the goal of preserving and promoting competition, the Incentive Auction can deliver to consumers – regardless of their zip code – greater choices, improved services, and lower costs.

Thank you again for apprising me of your views on this important matter. I look forward to working with you toward our mutual goal of a successful auction for the benefit of America's consumers in rural areas and the entire nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler".

Tom Wheeler