

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 25, 2014

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The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

To meet burgeoning consumer demand for mobile data services, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has called for 500 MHz of new commercial spectrum over the next ten years. Working in a bipartisan fashion, we have responded to the public interest in securing additional spectrum for broadband use with a variety of policy efforts and legislative measures. One of the cornerstones of our work has been to encourage government incumbents to relocate from the AWS-3 band and to ensure that the AWS-3 spectrum is made available for licensing on a paired basis, which is ideal for broadband deployment.

After years of planning and effort, the FCC recently announced its intention to auction the AWS-3 spectrum for commercial use on a paired basis later this year. We applaud that. As the FCC finalizes its band plan and rules for an auction of the long-sought AWS-3 spectrum, we write to stress the importance of creating strong incentives for wireless carriers to compete in the auction. We urge the Commission to put forth a band plan that allows for robust competition, maximizing revenue through vigorous auction participation.

We recognize the FCC must balance many competing public interest goals in designing spectrum band plans, geographic license areas, and block sizes. We understand that is not an easy task. We encourage the FCC to work towards creating a band plan that encourages a robust bidding process that maximizes revenue in the upcoming AWS-3 auction. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


BRETT GUTHRIE
Member of Congress


DORIS MATSUI
Member of Congress