

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 8, 2013

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

We believe the Federal Communications Commission can help increase the deployment of wireless services in rural America during the upcoming broadcast television incentive auction. Congress passed the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act to require the Commission, among other things, to consider assigning wireless licenses of various geographic sizes as a factor for forward auction.

We support the adoption of the recent proposal for smaller license areas called Partial Economic Areas (PEAs), or a similar proposal, designed to increase the participation of small and rural carriers during the forward auction. The ability of small and rural carriers to provide spectrum-based services hastens the build-out of wireless services to consumers in rural America.

The disparate terrain and disbursed population throughout rural America make it challenging for some wireless communications providers to justify the necessary investment to bring next generation wireless services to these areas. Therefore, this auction could spur increased competition and drive 21st century economic development in rural communities throughout the country if a broad array of providers is able to gain access to spectrum that covers rural areas.

The dramatic and impressive increase in wireless device adoption over the past decade is a testament to the innovation that drives the American economy. Many of our constituents rely on the various functions of "smart" devices to get the latest news or communicate with family and friends. But the ease with which we utilize these devices while we are in Washington, DC is not always the case when we return to our rural districts. The Commission has an opportunity to take an important step forward to fill this detrimental geographical gap by adopting the PEA or a similar license map.


Adequate wireless coverage, efficiency, and speed is no longer a luxury. It is a necessity for all Americans.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and we look forward to working with you on enhancing wireless capabilities and development in rural America.

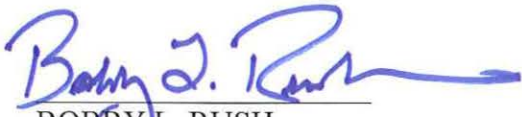
Sincerely,



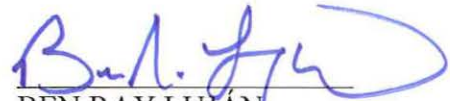
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Member of Congress



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