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Received & Inspected

MAY - 5 2014

FCC Mail Room

May 1, 2014

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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