



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

August 20, 2015

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senate
311 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cantwell:

Thank you for your letter supporting competition in the wireless marketplace. I share your view that the upcoming incentive auction is a unique opportunity to promote greater competition and choice, and to promote economic growth, by making additional low-band spectrum available for wireless broadband.

One of our priorities for the Incentive Auction is to assure that competitive providers have a meaningful opportunity to access low-band spectrum. This is particularly important in rural areas, where low-band spectrum is necessary if competitors are to fill in their coverage gaps, and in urban areas, where low-band spectrum allows more reliable in-building coverage. I agree that facilitating access to low-band spectrum by multiple providers is important to preserve and promote competition in the mobile wireless marketplace, which brings consumers more choices, lower prices, and higher quality services.

For these reasons, as you note, the Commission has established a groundbreaking spectrum reserve for competitors in every market nationwide. The market-based spectrum reserve for the incentive auction will facilitate an opportunity for mobile wireless providers that lack significant amounts of low-band spectrum to acquire such spectrum. Moreover, we expect that the vast majority of licenses auctioned in the spectrum reserve will have little or no impairments. Additionally, the market-based reserve is designed to promote competition as well as ensure that all bidders bear a fair share of the value of the spectrum for the public and the costs of broadcaster relocation. I am happy to report that this month, the Commission both affirmed the establishment of the reserve and set a cap on the amount of reserve spectrum that any entity could obtain in markets with a population of less than 500,000. I share your goal and believe that these two actions will help ensure that consumers will benefit directly from increased competition in all parts of the country – including rural, suburban, and urban areas.

Thank you for your ongoing interest in and support of our efforts to promote competition and choice in mobile broadband. I look forward to working with you toward our mutual goal of a successful incentive auction in early 2016 for the benefit of America's consumers.

Sincerely,

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

Tom Wheeler



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August 20, 2015

The Honorable Chris Coons
United States Senate
383 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Coons:

Thank you for your letter supporting competition in the wireless marketplace. I share your view that the upcoming incentive auction is a unique opportunity to promote greater competition and choice, and to promote economic growth, by making additional low-band spectrum available for wireless broadband.

One of our priorities for the Incentive Auction is to assure that competitive providers have a meaningful opportunity to access low-band spectrum. This is particularly important in rural areas, where low-band spectrum is necessary if competitors are to fill in their coverage gaps, and in urban areas, where low-band spectrum allows more reliable in-building coverage. I agree that facilitating access to low-band spectrum by multiple providers is important to preserve and promote competition in the mobile wireless marketplace, which brings consumers more choices, lower prices, and higher quality services.

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Tom Wheeler



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August 20, 2015

The Honorable Angus King
United States Senate
188 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator King:

Thank you for your letter supporting competition in the wireless marketplace. I share your view that the upcoming incentive auction is a unique opportunity to promote greater competition and choice, and to promote economic growth, by making additional low-band spectrum available for wireless broadband.

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August 20, 2015

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

Thank you for your letter supporting competition in the wireless marketplace. I share your view that the upcoming incentive auction is a unique opportunity to promote greater competition and choice, and to promote economic growth, by making additional low-band spectrum available for wireless broadband.

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August 20, 2015

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
173 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

Thank you for your letter supporting competition in the wireless marketplace. I share your view that the upcoming incentive auction is a unique opportunity to promote greater competition and choice, and to promote economic growth, by making additional low-band spectrum available for wireless broadband.

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August 20, 2015

The Honorable Mark Warner
United States Senate
475 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Warner:

Thank you for your letter supporting competition in the wireless marketplace. I share your view that the upcoming incentive auction is a unique opportunity to promote greater competition and choice, and to promote economic growth, by making additional low-band spectrum available for wireless broadband.

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