

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 21, 2010

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

As the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) prepares to adopt rules concerning unused spectrum, or TV white spaces, we urge the Commission to ensure that a variety of technologies, including smart grid applications, are able to utilize this spectrum to advance our nation's clean energy needs.

In November 2008, the FCC unanimously voted to allow the use of the TV white spaces for broadband. By addressing these pending petitions for reconsideration of the Commission's decision, we hope that the goal of providing access for unlicensed broadband wireless devices will be realized. In today's economy, broadband services are vital for consumers, and it is critical that we expand access to more 'unserved' and 'underserved' areas nationwide.

As we continue to promote policies to expand broadband services, more and more consumers will expect to use their computer and wireless devices to monitor their energy usage in "real-time" whether they are at home, at work, or on vacation. Advances in smart grid technology offer consumers the ability to monitor their energy usage to ensure energy savings on their monthly utility bills. In fact, some estimates indicate that consumers who track their energy use in real time and make simple behavioral changes accordingly could save up to 15 percent or \$180 per year on their utility bills.

Electric utilities could also substantially benefit from the use of white spaces for smart grid technologies. Utilities will be able to better manage outages, reduce peak demand, and gain more control over the decisions concerning resources. It will also give utilities new capabilities, such as automated meter reading, voltage monitoring, and notification of outages to provide customers with timely notifications about power outages and service-restoration estimates, all while making electricity grid more efficient.

In its National Broadband Plan, the FCC recognized the importance of allowing TV white spaces to be used to deliver cost-effective broadband connectivity for a wide variety of consumer, business, and government applications. The National Broadband Plan also acknowledged the critical role that broadband plays in advancing a more sustainable path of greater energy independence and efficiency by including a series of recommendations to modernize smart grid technologies. The Plan stated that "consumers and businesses will need easy access to

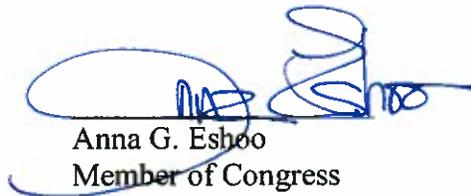
information about the type, amount and price of energy to make informed decisions about their consumption.” In fact, the Plan also cited a recent Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) report that stated evolving smart grid technologies result in “dynamic pricing and better demand-side engagement can reduce peak demand by as much as 20 percent by 2019.”

We should be promoting policies to reach energy efficiency goals, and unused TV white spaces that will enable further development of smart grid technologies. Again, we urge the Commission to promote a variety of technologies, including smart grid technologies, through its decision in the upcoming proceeding on white spaces and support the efforts the FCC is making to finalize policies that will allow devices and technologies to fully leverage the white space spectrum to move our nation towards a more sustainable energy path.

Sincerely,



Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress