

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 10, 2016

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

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information and NTIA Administrator
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Chairman Wheeler and Assistant Secretary Strickling:

We write today to urge the Commission to take steps to continue to unlock much-needed additional mobile broadband spectrum.

As members of the Energy and Commerce Committee, we have worked on a bicameral and bipartisan basis to identify opportunities to free up federal spectrum in a way that allows agencies to maintain or even enhance their critical missions. The Department of Commerce and the FCC have made progress in this regard, but due to the ongoing demand for additional spectrum to be made available, we strongly encourage you to continue the push toward reallocating even more government spectrum for commercial use.

In particular, we would like to call your attention to the 1675–1680 MHz band of spectrum, which after years of study has been identified for commercial reallocation and has both congressional and Administration support. Specifically, report language accompanying the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015, urged the FCC to move forward with repurposing this 5 MHz band. Additionally, for four years in a row the President's budget has supported reallocating and auctioning the 1675–1680 MHz spectrum band.

This spectrum is currently used by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for radiosonde operations, but we understand that studies conducted several years ago determined it was feasible to relocate those systems and enable repurposing of this spectrum band for wireless broadband. Funding for relocation of these systems is available thanks to the recent AWS-3 auction. A public proceeding on this matter and related matters would provide all stakeholders an opportunity to weigh in further and discuss solutions so that this spectrum can finally be commercialized consistent with our shared policy goals.

The success of the AWS-3 auction last year demonstrated the benefits that FCC spectrum auctions can generate for taxpayers and American wireless consumers. We understand there are

applications before the Commission requesting that the FCC move forward in reallocating and auctioning the 1675–1680 MHz band on a shared basis with NOAA while protecting NOAA operations. As we continue to promote policies designed to enhance technological innovation and maintain our global competitiveness, we strongly encourage the Commission and NTIA to move forward expeditiously to commercialize the 1675–1680 MHz band of spectrum.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to timely updates on your progress to commercialize this spectrum.

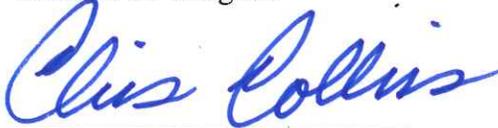
Sincerely,



Brett Guthrie
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Chris Collins
Member of Congress



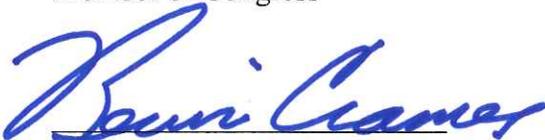
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



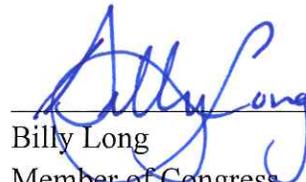
Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



Ed Whitfield
Member of Congress



Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress



Billy Long
Member of Congress



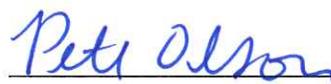
Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress



Bill Flores
Member of Congress



Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress



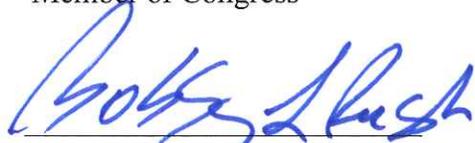
Pete Olson
Member of Congress



G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



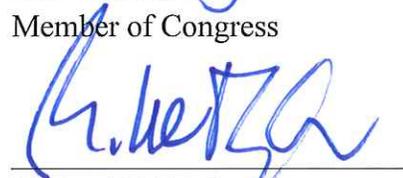
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



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Michael F. Doyle
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