April 24, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are writing about the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) proceeding to implement the voluntary spectrum incentive auction process. While we support the FCC’s effort to employ a market-based mechanism to free up spectrum for mobile broadband, we want to ensure that the Commission evaluate and minimize any harm to television translators as a result of the auction and repacking processes.

As you may be aware, Arizona relies on more than 130 translators to provide essential television service throughout the state. In many cases, these translators provide the only access our constituents have to critical local and national news, weather and emergency information. This is particularly true in a number of Arizona’s Tribal communities, where many cannot afford or do not have access to wireline and wireless telecommunications services or pay television.

Translators serve an essential function in our state’s communications landscape today. We urge the Commission to carefully consider the auction’s impact on translators and do everything it can to limit unnecessarily eliminating their existence where they are needed most. Please continue to keep us informed of the Commission’s plans as they pertain to television translators.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. As always, we ask that this matter be handled in strict accordance with the existing agency rules, regulations, and ethical guidelines. If you have any question or concerns, please feel free to contact our offices.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Gosar (AZ-4)
Member of Congress

Ron Barber (AZ-2)
Member of Congress

Trent Franks (AZ-8)
Member of Congress

Kyrsten Sinema (AZ-9)
Member of Congress
Matt Salmon (AZ-5)
Member of Congress

David Schweikert (AZ-6)
Member of Congress

Ed Pastor (AZ-7)
Member of Congress

Raúl Grijalva (AZ-3)
Member of Congress

Ann Kirkpatrick (AZ-1)
Member of Congress