

WALTER B. JONES
3D DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

ROOM 2333
RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-3415

COMMITTEES:
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1105-C CORPORATE DRIVE
GREENVILLE, NC 27858
(252) 931-1003
(800) 351-1697

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3303

September 21, 2007

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

As a representative of a rural district in North Carolina, I understand the importance of bringing broadband to rural America. I commend the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on its effort to do so, and encourage you to swiftly do all you can to bridge the digital divide that hinders many rural communities.

I believe that access to TV "white space" spectrum could facilitate ubiquitous broadband deployment in rural areas. As you may be aware, there is a 15 percent gap between broadband penetration rates in rural America and more densely populated cities and suburbs. Many of my rural constituents cannot access government program information, educational tools and research materials because of a lack of broadband access.

However, I am concerned that some technologies used to tap into "white space" spectrum may interfere with television broadcasts. Constituents in my district and elsewhere depend on a television signal that is not obscured by interference. Many viewers will already be coping with the transition to digital television. They should not have to encounter the additional complication of interrupted broadcasts.

A smooth digital transition is of the utmost importance to Congress, to the FCC and to the American people. It is my sincere hope that the FCC will find a way to bring broadband to the rural populations of America without depriving those same people of their television programming.

Sincerely,



Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress