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Bart Gordon
Congress of the United States

6th District, Tennessee
September 26, 2007

The Honorable Kevin Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20544

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I am writing to express my concern about a proposal to place unlicensed, personal and portable devices on television channels. (OET Docket No. 04-186; 02-380.)

As the Chairman of the House Science and Technology Committee, I support the most efficient use of spectrum. However, I believe this proposal is premature until such time that it can be proven that unlicensed, personal and portable devices will not cause harmful interference to the devices already using the TV spectrum. These devices include over-the-air digital television sets, digital-to-analog converter boxes, digital cable and live microphones. Because these devices are real-time, even a small amount of interference is unacceptable. Technology may solve the interference problem in the future, allowing TV white spaces to be used to foster innovative new broadband technologies and services. However, until such time, I urge the FCC to reject the proposal to allow unlicensed, personal and portable devices to share TV white spaces.

As an interim step, I fully support efforts to deliver broadband services to rural America through fixed systems using empty TV channels. These fixed systems would offer the advantages of broadband to rural consumers without causing harmful interference with existing services.

Stay in touch,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bart".

BART GORDON
Member of Congress