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House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence  
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISH AND WILDLIFE AND FORESTS  
GARY L. GINSBERG

## Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3602

July 15, 2011

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
H-232 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
H-204 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi:

I am writing in regard to the spectrum issue, and in particular the plan to give the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) authority to conduct voluntary incentive auctions that would permit current license holders, including television broadcasters, to return their licenses to the federal government and receive a portion of the auction proceeds. As Congress works to craft sound spectrum policy and build out a much-needed communications platform for our nation's first responders, I am seeking assurances that the public's access to the important programming and services provided by our nation's television broadcasters is protected.

While I support the notion of voluntary incentive auctions that could raise funds to help reduce the national debt, I do have concerns that the Senate Commerce Committee product, S. 911, need to go further to ensure that television broadcasters can fully serve their viewers now and in the future. If you chose to include voluntary incentive auctions in the ultimate debt ceiling legislation, I am hopeful the House of Representatives will include the necessary provisions to protect viewers, support our local television stations and generate the \$1.17 trillion of the annual Gross Domestic Product that originates in local commercial broadcasting, in addition to the 2.52 million jobs attributed to the industry.

It is essential for the bill to clearly outline that any broadcaster choosing not to participate in a voluntary auction will not be adversely impacted. The protections for stations should include four key elements:

1. For those television stations that want to stay in the business of broadcasting, the FCC should be required to replicate their coverage area so that no viewers are left without a television station signal.
2. There should be no forced relocation of stations from the UHF band to the VHF band so broadcasters can continue to innovate and create new products for their viewers.

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3. We should authorize one incentive auction to provide certainty in the market, and
4. We should address the economic impact of relocation on stations and the resulting consequences on viewers.

Many of my constituents rely on free over-the-air television and following the digital television transition they receive more content than ever before. Our spectrum policies should encourage future innovations and should not preclude broadcasters from providing and creating new services that will allow them to compete in the marketplace.

I believe it is essential to protect television viewers throughout a voluntary auction process. Thank you for your attention to these matters and I look forward to addressing them as legislation moves to the House floor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Boren', written over a horizontal line.

Dan Boren  
Member of Congress