

FRANK A. LoBIONDO
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3002

September 24, 2007

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The Honorable Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

I am concerned about a proposal currently before the Federal Communications Commission (OET Docket No. 04-186) to allow unlicensed, personal portable devices to make use of unused television bandwidth spectrum for wireless communications.

It is my understanding the potential exists both in the present and the future for substantial harmful interference to over-the-air digital television broadcasting. The interference would most directly impact those consumers who have purchased newer model digital television sets or who will be relying on digital-to-analog converter boxes to receive over-the-air television signals. This is especially worrisome given the uncertainty already surrounding the transition from analog to digital slated to occur in 2009.

I understand, according to your own agency's data, digital television sets could receive interference from these devices in 80 to 87% of a television station's coverage area. Despite some assurances that the devices would contain a chip to prevent such interference by detecting television signals, I am aware of a recent FCC report that found the chip did not perform as expected and could cause interference with the digital signal. Once these devices are released and in use, I am concerned the interference could disrupt digital signals with no way to prevent the interference or recall the devices.

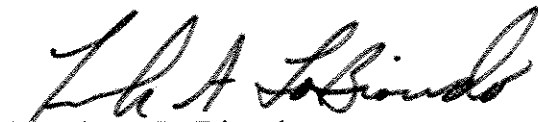
As you may know, I am a strong supporter of broadband access to rural areas, but I would like to see other options for providing such access without disrupting digital television signals. I understand there may be unused bandwidth

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available which a fixed system could utilize to better service rural consumers in my district and throughout New Jersey which would limit or eliminate altogether the potential interference with over-the-air signals.

I greatly appreciate your efforts in regards to this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank A. LoBiondo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Frank A. LoBiondo
Member of Congress

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