

JO BONNER

1ST DISTRICT, ALABAMA

ASSISTANT REPUBLICAN WHIP

REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE

SERVING BALDWIN, CLARKE,  
ESCAMBIA, MOBILE, MONROE AND  
WASHINGTON COUNTIES

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

September 25, 2007

Honorable Kevin Martin  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554-0001

Dear Chairman Martin:

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

As you are aware, recent analysis by the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) shows that digital television sets could receive interference from these unlicensed devices in 80% to 87% of a television station's coverage area. In addition, the FCC's most recent report found that a prototype device that was intended to help avoid interference simply did not work and, in some circumstances, caused interference.

With much of the First District of Alabama being rural, I recognize what bringing broadband to rural America can do as a catalyst for communication and economic development. However, I understand that there are ways to utilize "unused" spectrum through fixed systems that can offer the advantages of broadband to rural consumers without threatening viewers who rely on over-the-air television.

A smooth transition is of the utmost importance to Congress and our constituents. Please do not jeopardize the success of the digital television transition when nearly 21 million homes rely exclusively on free, over-the-air television broadcasts.

Thank you for your consideration. With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,



Jo Bonner  
Member of Congress

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