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## UNITED STATES SENATE

October 4, 2007

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

Dear Chairman Martin:

I write to express my concern regarding proposals to allow unlicensed, personal and portable devices to operate in the spectrum reserved for digital television transition. The use of these devices poses the risk of harmful interference that could permanently undermine over-the-air television in the United States. Interference from personal and portable devices would be particularly detrimental to the millions of Americans who have recently purchased digital television sets or who will receive subsidized digital-to-analog converter boxes as part of the digital television transition. If allowed to operate in these frequencies, unlicensed wireless devices may cause consumers to be left wondering why the digital switch left them unable to receive a television signal. As you know, even a small amount of interference freezes a digital picture.

With millions of unlicensed devices potentially entering the market, interference could come from anywhere. Interference from these devices is impossible to police because it cannot be tracked. While studies supporting both sides of the issue have emerged, I believe it would be unwise to proceed in approving the use of unlicensed wireless devices before the transition to digital television is complete and a full review can be given to new wireless technology. Nearly 21 million homes rely exclusively on free, over-the-air television broadcasts. A smooth digital transition is of the utmost importance to Congress, to the FCC and to the American people. Please allow this transition to proceed smoothly before you consider allowing other uses for portions of this valuable spectrum.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. O. Graham".

Lindsey O. Graham  
United States Senator

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