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Congress of the United States **House of Representatives**

October 15, 2007

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

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POLICY COMMITTEE

DEPUTY WHIP

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

Dear Chairman Martin:

We are writing to express our concern about a proposal pending before the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in OET Docket No. 04-186; 02-380. This proposal would place personal and portable unlicensed transmitting devices in TV White Spaces. It is our understanding that placing these devices in the TV band at this time is likely to cause interference to television reception and impair coverage of news and sporting events by interfering with wireless microphones.

An analysis of the FCC's data shows that digital television sets could receive interference from these unlicensed devices in 80 to 87 percent of a television station's coverage area. Moreover, the FCC's most recent report, released July 31, 2007, found that a prototype device that supposedly avoided interference did not work and in fact caused interference.

With the potential of millions of devices placed in the hands of consumers, interference could come from an apartment next door or a neighbor down the street, making finding an interfering device impossible. Users of unlicensed devices will not realize they are causing interference, and consumers will never know why their television sets are not working properly.

We fully support the efforts to deliver the promise of broadband to rural America. Nonetheless, it is our belief that there are ways to utilize the "unused" spectrum through fixed systems that can offer the advantages of broadband to rural consumers without interference to television reception.

A smooth digital transition is of the utmost importance to Congress, the FCC and to the American people. We ask that you proceed with the caution on the decision to allow personal and portable unlicensed transmitting devices to enter the television band until it can be shown with 100% certainty that they will not cause harmful interference.

Yours truly,

Tom Price, M.D Member of Congress Eynn Westmoreland

Member of Congress

Jack Kingston Member of Congress

Member of Congress

David Scott

Member of Congress

Phil Gingrey, M.D. Member of Congress