

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 5, 2007

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

Re: OET Docket No. 04-186; 02-380

Dear Chairman Martin:

We are writing to express our shared concerns over personal and portable unlicensed devices in the television band. I understand the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) has studied various prototypes of these unlicensed devices and found them to cause significant interference with digital over-the-air television that many of our constituents rely on for critical information.

With the deadline for the digital television transition approaching, a smooth and successful transition is in the interest of all Americans. Interference from unlicensed, portable devices in the television band has the potential to jeopardize the public's confidence in the transition's success by rendering new digital television unwatchable. A previous OET report suggests that these unlicensed, portable devices can cause interference in 80 to 87% of televisions in a station's coverage area and that interference could range for miles.

Consumers and the federal government are spending billions of dollars to prepare for the digital transition between households purchasing new digital sets and the federal government's \$1.5 billion federal converter box program.

In addition to the interference problems that will occur, allowing unlicensed, mobile devices into the TV white spaces limits the FCC's ability to auction that portion of spectrum when it becomes available. Currently, the FCC plans to auction the 700 MHz spectrum beginning in January of 2008. The auction is expected to raise anywhere from \$15-17 billion in revenue to contribute to the General Treasury of the United States. When we are faced with a national debt that is quickly nearing its limit of \$8.965 trillion, forfeiting an opportunity to auction such a valuable piece of spectrum is both imprudent and fiscally irresponsible. We are committed to balancing the budget and ridding taxpayers of the burden the debt places on them.

We embrace and support the delivery of broadband services to rural America in a manner that will not harm existing services in the television spectrum. The FCC should not rush to approve devices that have been proven to interfere with digital television when careful spectrum planning can foster opportunities for "fixed" rural broadband systems without causing interference to television reception.

We appreciate your consideration of our concerns and look forward to continuing to work with you on a successful digital transition.

Sincerely,

Leonard L. Cowell

Samuel D. BeRog. Jr.

Mari Berg

Timothy Davis

Davei Scott

John Barnes

