



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 21, 2010

The Honorable Eliot L. Engel
U. S. House of Representatives
2161 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3217

Dear Congressman Engel:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireless Communications Service (WCS) proceeding currently pending before the Commission. I share your view about the benefits that wireless broadband service will bring to the public, and want to assure you that we remain committed to conducting this and any Commission proceeding transparently and with full public participation.

On May 20, 2010, the Commission adopted technical rules governing the operation of SDARS terrestrial repeaters that will not impede their deployment or function, but will limit the potential for harmful interference to adjacent bands' WCS spectrum users, and adopt a blanket-licensing regime. The Report and Order also establishes a regulatory framework for the co-existence of SDARS and WCS licensees SDARS repeaters to promote their flexible deployment. And to ensure that the potential of the WCS mobile broadband spectrum is realized fully and quickly, we also adopt strong build-out requirements that will spur investment and get services on this spectrum out to American consumers as speedily as possible.

To promote innovation, investment, and our global competitiveness, the National Broadband Plan recommends that 500 megahertz of spectrum be made available for broadband use within the next 10 years, including 300 megahertz for mobile broadband use in the next five years. Doing so is vital to seizing the opportunity of mobile broadband to be an enduring engine of economic growth, investment, and job creation in the 21st century.

I am pleased that by taking a fresh look at the WCS rules, we are able to create an environment for innovative, cutting-edge mobile products and services in a spectrum band that has essentially remained fallow for years -- while still protecting adjacent band services from harmful interference and providing important clarity about the long-term operation of satellite radio terrestrial repeaters.

I appreciate your interest in this very important matter. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julius Genachowski". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke.

Julius Genachowski