



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

January 20, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Jay Inslee
U.S. House of Representatives
2329 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Inslee:

Thank you for your letter outlining your concerns about Commission policies for licensing and use of microwave spectrum. I appreciate your support for the Commission's efforts to maximize spectrum efficiency. We are in agreement about the importance of effective and intensive use of microwave spectrum.

In August 2011, the Commission issued a *Report and Order, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, and Memorandum Opinion and Order* removing regulatory barriers that had limited the use of spectrum for wireless backhaul and other point-to-point and point-to-multipoint communications. The *Order* adds up to 650 MHz of spectrum for wireless backhaul, and provides additional flexibility to enable service licensees to reduce operational costs and maximize reliability.

During the course of the wireless backhaul proceeding, the Commission considered concerns about its frequency coordination-based licensing regime – which entails coordination among nearby license holders to identify and resolve potential interference – and examined proposals similar to those outlined in your letter. The majority of commenters on this issue supported the existing licensing regime, and the Commission found that there was no factual basis for the assertion that frequency coordination licensing for wireless backhaul leads to inefficient use of the spectrum. Because the coordination process takes place between applicants and licensees without Commission involvement, the Commission does not have immediate access to information concerning instances where requests for coordination of microwave links are rejected.

The wireless backhaul proceeding is ongoing and I will ensure that your letter is placed in the proceeding record. I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,


Julius Genachowski