



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

March 30, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Dave Loebsack
U.S. House of Representatives
1221 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Loebsack:

Thank you for your letter sharing your constituents' concerns that voluntary incentive auctions in the broadcast television spectrum might cause them to lose access to free local television channels. I appreciate that Congress recently granted the Commission authority to use this market-based solution to address the looming shortage of spectrum available for wireless broadband.

Incentive auctions will enable the market to determine, through a voluntary process, the amount of spectrum that can be repurposed for flexible uses like wireless broadband. Over-the-air television broadcasters may voluntarily contribute their spectrum or choose not to participate in the incentive auction. TV broadcaster participation in incentive auctions will be voluntary, and stations will not be forced off the air.

To optimize the value of the spectrum voluntarily contributed by broadcasters, the Commission will need to realign remaining TV stations in the band, so that the pieces fit in the most efficient way and the repurposed spectrum can be used efficiently to offer wireless broadband services. Each of the remaining stations will have just as much spectrum per station in the same band as it has today and will be compensated from incentive auction proceeds for its move to a new channel assignment.

I appreciate your interest in this important matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Genachowski", is written over a horizontal line.

Julius Genachowski