



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

June 12, 2012

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hatch:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's responsibilities under the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (JOBS Act). I appreciate hearing your views on this matter. I have asked the co-leader of the Commission's Incentive Auction Task Force to respond to your concerns and I am pleased to provide the enclosed letter.

If you have any additional questions or need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Julius Genachowski

Enclosure



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

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The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hatch:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's responsibilities under the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (JOBS Act). I recognize the significant contribution of spectrum auction proceeds to the government's revenue. The Commission is dedicated to implementing this important legislation in a timely and effective manner.

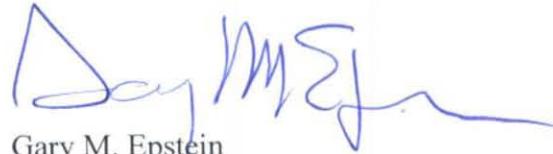
The JOBS Act requires the Commission to auction up to 65 megahertz of spectrum by February 2015, including three bands totaling 35 megahertz of advanced wireless services (AWS) spectrum, 15 megahertz of spectrum to be identified by NTIA from the 1675-1710 MHz band, and an additional 15 megahertz of contiguous spectrum to be identified by the Commission. The Commission, working with NTIA where appropriate, has been exploring the optimal use of these bands. For example, after NTIA determined in 2010 that the 1695-1710 MHz band (with exclusion zones) could be made available for wireless broadband, the Commission sought comment in 2011 on the potential for using this spectrum for commercial broadband services. The Commission is working with NTIA to identify additional Federal spectrum for reallocation or for sharing with commercial uses, including the 1755-1780 MHz band strongly preferred by the wireless industry for paired use with 25 megahertz of the AWS spectrum that must be auctioned by February 2015 under the JOBS Act. These spectrum bands comprise some of the most promising resources to address the spectrum crunch and to enable the continued acceleration of the mobile broadband revolution that is driving economic growth, investment, and valuable new services for consumers and businesses.

The JOBS Act also granted the Commission the authority to conduct incentive auctions of broadcast television spectrum. Incentive auctions offer an unprecedented opportunity to unleash vitally needed additional spectrum for mobile broadband and create tremendous value for American consumers, while raising billions of dollars for deficit reduction. Chairman Genachowski is grateful that Congress authorized this important new mechanism, and the Commission is committed to moving forward expeditiously implementing the incentive auction legislation. To that end, the Commission recently adopted rules allowing channel sharing by broadcasters in anticipation of a future incentive auction, and the Commission's Incentive

Auction Task Force is engaged in coordinating the agencywide effort to implement the legislation.

Since the Commission is in the early stages of implementing the incentive auction legislation, I cannot say when we will be able to provide you with the report that you request outlining anticipated milestones. However, I will be glad to keep you informed of Commission progress on these auction proceedings. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary M. Epstein".

Gary M. Epstein
Incentive Auction Task Force