



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

June 14, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Olympia J. Snowe
United States Senate
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Snowe:

Thank you for your letter encouraging a comprehensive approach to spectrum policy that includes improved planning, management, and coordination activities. We are in agreement that policy makers need to focus on a variety of tools to dramatically increase the efficiency of spectrum use, including by making significantly more spectrum available for wireless broadband.

To achieve these goals, I recently announced the Commission's Mobile Action Plan. This comprehensive strategy comprises three separate, though related tracks: core opportunities, emerging opportunities, and next frontiers of wireless policy.

Core opportunities include plans to auction 65 MHz of spectrum over the next three years, as directed by the recent spectrum legislation. They also include removing barriers to flexible spectrum use, such as the recent AWS-4 rulemaking to convert 40 MHz of spectrum from satellite to terrestrial use, and rule changes the Commission unanimously adopted at its May meeting to accelerate rollout of LTE in the 800 MHz band.

Critically, this track also entails improving network and device efficiency – including efficient receivers in every band. The Commission initiated a review of receiver performance with a two-day workshop in March, and the Technological Advisory Council has made this issue a top priority.

Emerging opportunities include implementing the important incentive auction legislation, along with opening TV white spaces for unlicensed use, and creating the Mobility Fund to promote expansion of mobile broadband to unserved rural areas of the country. As you have noted in your letter, the Commission will work closely and coordinate with NTIA.

As the 1755-1850 MHz band report illustrates, spectrum sharing between government and commercial users will be key to releasing spectrum for alternative use where today the only option is complete reallocation or nothing. In partnership with NTIA, testing to support sharing in the 1755-1780 MHz band is underway. Another next frontier, small cells, also could benefit from our partnership with NTIA – potentially sharing spectrum in the 3.5 MHz band. The Commission also is working with NTIA and industry on a core opportunity – making an additional 120 MHz of spectrum in the 5 GHz band available for unlicensed use such as Wi-Fi.

The Mobile Action Plan offers us a far-reaching map forward. I appreciate your thoughtful input on these critically important issues and look forward to our continued work together. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Julius Genachowski