

RAÚL M. GRIJALVA
7TH DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
Subcommittee on Water and Power
Subcommittee on Parks, Forests and
Public Lands - *Ranking Member*

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE
Subcommittee on Early Childhood,
Elementary and Secondary Education
Subcommittee on Higher Education and
Workforce Training

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS,
Co-Chair



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0307

September 7, 2012

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The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington DC 20554

*MB
P. J. ...
10/10/12
Cecilia ...
11/9/12*

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to you with respect to the television broadcast incentive auction that Congress authorized as part of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012.

As you know, Congress adopted this measure to permit those television licensees that want to exit the broadcast business to do so voluntarily, thereby freeing up frequencies that could then be reallocated for wireless broadband services.

I know that the demand for reallocated spectrum is likely to be greatest in the largest U.S. markets. Not surprisingly, those also happen to be the largest television markets with the largest number of viewers. In Arizona for example, the greatest shortage of spectrum is likely to be in the Tucson market.

While increasing the amount of spectrum allocated to wireless broadband fulfills an important national goal, it is equally important that the Federal Communications Commission protects the ability of the public to continue to receive free over-the-air television signals from those television stations that will continue to provide service to our constituents after the auction is over.

Maintaining access to free over the air television service is an increasingly important goal for the commission to achieve. Recent statistics demonstrate that the number of Americans who rely exclusively upon free over-the-air service has grown significantly to nearly 54 million, and the trend line indicates that the number of over-the-air households is likely to continue to grow.

For this reason, the band plan that the commission adopts for remaining television licensees must not adversely affect the ability of our constituents to continue receiving their free local programming. Thus, it is imperative that the commission adhere to a policy of transparency, disclosing its plans to the public at the earliest possible opportunity, to maximize the ability of those who may be affected by the commission's actions to evaluate and understand how the proposed changes will affect them.

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Freeing up spectrum to increase the amount available for wireless broadband services is important. But achieving that goal should not come at the expense of the television viewing public who rely on free over-the-air television, such as those in Arizona. All Americans deserve to know how the commission's repacking plan will affect their ability to continue receiving the free television signals they currently receive. I urge to make available to the public all of the information available to the commission, allowing enough time for stations to determine how they may be affected.

I thank you for your attention to this request, and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raúl M. Grijalva". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "G".

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress