



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

March 27, 2014

The Honorable Mark Pryor
Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Pryor:

Thank you for your letter encouraging the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to promptly examine the possible expansion of unlicensed spectrum in the 5 GHz band. I share your recognition of the importance of making available more unlicensed spectrum, and I agree that steps must be taken to alleviate the strain on existing unlicensed bands.

The FCC is committed to realizing the tremendous promise the 5 GHz band offers for unlicensed use, but we also remain obligated to protect incumbent users from harmful interference, pursuant to the FCC's rules. Our staff has been working with all of the stakeholders to resolve the technical challenges associated with increasing the utility of this spectrum, while also protecting incumbent, licensed users.

Based on comments received in response to the FCC's February 2013 *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* and the continuing collaborative efforts of the various stakeholders – and consistent with the recommendation in your letter – the Commission is poised to act to enhance the utility of the spectrum that is already available for unlicensed U-NII use. At its March 31 Agenda Meeting, the FCC will consider a Report and Order that would revise FCC rules to make 100 megahertz of 5 GHz U-NII-1 band unlicensed spectrum more useful for consumers and businesses, and reduce the potential for harmful interference to certain incumbent operations. If adopted, the Report and Order would enhance operational flexibility, and continue to foster the development of new and innovative unlicensed devices, which will increase wireless broadband access and investment.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Your letter will be included in the record of this proceeding and considered during the FCC's review. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler".

Tom Wheeler