

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 20, 2013

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Chairman Wheeler:

Congratulations on your recent confirmation and swearing in as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). I look forward to working with you to ensure the Commission's policies foster the technological innovation and economic growth that make our country great, particularly on wireless issues. I am writing to highlight one such technology: wireless microphones.

For years, professional sports leagues, churches, performing arts venues, theme parks and other vital community institutions and businesses have relied on wireless microphones for secure, clear, and efficient communications. No other technology provides the same balance of quality, reliability, and affordability without the encumbrance of wires. For example, during each Miami Dolphins home game, more than 60,000 people pack Sun Life Stadium, and millions more watch on televisions worldwide. Invisible to these fans are the dozens of wireless microphones that make these games possible. Using wireless microphones, coaches communicate with players, referees consult with one another and inform fans, and sportscasters report to viewers. Quite simply, wireless microphones enable fans at the stadium and at home to enjoy the game, and they provide similar benefits for church congregations and theater and theme park patrons.

In the current spectrum auction and repacking rulemaking, the FCC indicated it is considering a proposal to eliminate one or both of the channels that are dedicated to wireless microphones. I have heard from numerous stakeholders that could be negatively impacted by this elimination and that have filed comments at the Commission. Because wireless microphones are so vital to so many community institutions, I urge you to take these concerns into consideration when drafting the final auction and repacking rules.

Like you, I embrace the potential of wireless broadband and feel that our spectrum policies must accommodate new technologies. And I believe we can achieve this goal without compromising vital technologies that are essential to the operations of businesses and organizations across the nation. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to working with you to promote the development and use of innovative communication technologies such as wireless microphones.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
United States Senator