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STEVEN HORSFORD
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
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PUBLIC LANDS & ENVIRONMENTAL
REGULATION

April 9, 2014

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

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Dear Chairman Wheeler:

As the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) works to finalize the rules for the inaugural voluntary incentive auction, I encourage the FCC to consider the role of translators and low-power television stations in delivering over-the-air television to Nevada's rural communities. Many farmers and ranchers, small businesses and families living in remote areas rely on receiving over-the-air television through translators and low-power television stations. With this in mind, I ask the FCC to examine options to minimize the impacts of repacking spectrum in rural areas following the upcoming incentive spectrum auction.

In the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act (P.L. 112-96), Congress authorized the FCC to conduct the first-ever voluntary spectrum incentive auction. However, the Act did not contain specific provisions regarding the importance of maintaining over-the-air television networks in rural, mountainous or otherwise hard-to-reach areas that depend on translators or low-power television stations. Across my vast and mountainous state, my constituents rely on over-the-air television to access vital news programming, weather updates, emergency announcements and educational and entertainment content.

Television translators and low-power television stations are deployed across the nation to extend the reach of full-power stations or to provide over-the-air service where it wouldn't exist otherwise. In fact, there are more than 300 translators and low-power television stations in Nevada many of which are taxpayer-funded. Furthermore, translators often operate as a network relaying programming to the hardest-to-reach corners of our country. I implore the Commission to take a careful approach to repacking so as not to upset these carefully constructed daisy chains.

While I recognize that the repacking process will inevitably lead to changes for translators and low-power television stations, I urge the FCC to ensure that access to quality over-the-air television is preserved. Translators and low-power television stations are often owned and operated by small local entities that cannot afford retooling with their limited

resources. That's why it is crucial for the FCC to take into account the unique challenges of updating translators and low-power television stations after repacking spectrum.

I hope these important broadcasting issues can be addressed without delaying the spectrum auction. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steven Horsford". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

STEVEN HORSFORD
Member of Congress