

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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February 19, 2015

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

I write to urge you to take a fresh look at the Federal Communications Commission's wireless competition policies for next year's incentive auction. The Commission's rules should be used to benefit actual small businesses.

New Jersey alone is home to over 800,000 small businesses. These businesses are vital to our economy and are responsible for half of the jobs in the state. Without smart policies, small businesses simply cannot survive in capital-intensive industries such as telecommunications. In recognition of this fact, Congress directed the FCC in the Communications Act to develop rules that help small businesses and encourage competition.

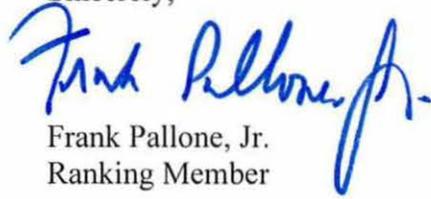
I am deeply concerned, however, by reports that major corporations have been able to game certain FCC rules designed to aid small businesses. If these reports are true, large businesses took advantage of loopholes first adopted in the Bush administration. Not only do these Bush-era rules undermine Congressional intent, they may result in real small businesses being boxed out of the telecommunications market.

Fortunately, with the FCC's upcoming incentive auction, we have a chance to get this right. This auction may be the last time for years that small businesses can access the airwaves most useful for wireless broadband. As the Commission considers the rules for this auction, it should make sure its competition policies are geared toward those who need it most—not just major corporations and incumbents.

The FCC's upcoming auctions are a once-in-a-generation opportunity. The Commission's rules should make sure this chance extends to actual small businesses. Do not repeat the mistakes of the past.

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank Pallone, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member