



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 27, 2015

The Honorable Larry Bucshon
U.S. House of Representatives
1005 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Bucshon:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to update our competitive bidding rules to provide small businesses and rural service providers with greater flexibility to compete in today's wireless marketplace. I appreciate your leadership and support for our efforts to ensure that *bona fide* small businesses and eligible rural service providers have the opportunity to participate in our spectrum auctions and in the provision of spectrum-based services.

To that end, the Commission recently adopted a Report & Order updating our competitive bidding rules to reflect the dramatic changes in the wireless marketplace since they were last updated in 2006. In 2006, the top four national carriers served 82 percent of the market; today the top four national carriers serve 98 percent of all subscribers. Given these changes, the Commission acted to afford *bona fide* small businesses and eligible rural service providers a better on-ramp into the wireless industry and the flexibility to make business decisions that can create more wireless choices for consumers.

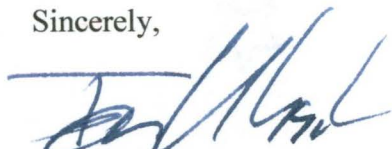
As you note, the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, directs the Commission to ensure rural service providers have the opportunity to compete for spectrum in the Commission's spectrum auctions. To aid these rural service providers, the Report & Order creates a bidding credit to incentivize their participation in future auctions and facilitate competition in rural areas. Specifically, the rural service provider bidding credit will allow entities that serve predominantly rural areas and provide services to 250,000 subscribers or less to receive a 15 percent bidding credit or discount on the amount they must pay for licenses awarded at auction. For the upcoming Incentive Auction, at the request of rural service providers, the Report & Order also establishes a \$10 million cap on the overall amount of discounts that either small businesses or rural service providers may receive in smaller markets to ensure that they can compete for spectrum on equal footing with larger, well-financed small businesses.

Ultimately, the reforms adopted in the Report & Order will increase the economic opportunity for small and rural businesses, as well as ensure that the beneficiaries of our competitive bidding rules are those intended by Congress.

Page 2—The Honorable Larry Bucshon

Thank you for your ongoing support of our efforts to promote competition and choice in mobile broadband.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", written over a horizontal line.

Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 27, 2015

The Honorable Kevin Cramer
U.S. House of Representatives
1032 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cramer:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to update our competitive bidding rules to provide small businesses and rural service providers with greater flexibility to compete in today's wireless marketplace. I appreciate your leadership and support for our efforts to ensure that *bona fide* small businesses and eligible rural service providers have the opportunity to participate in our spectrum auctions and in the provision of spectrum-based services.

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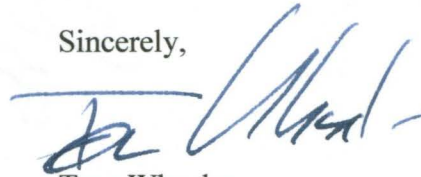
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Tom Wheeler



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July 27, 2015

The Honorable Rick Crawford
U.S. House of Representatives
1711 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Crawford:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to update our competitive bidding rules to provide small businesses and rural service providers with greater flexibility to compete in today's wireless marketplace. I appreciate your leadership and support for our efforts to ensure that *bona fide* small businesses and eligible rural service providers have the opportunity to participate in our spectrum auctions and in the provision of spectrum-based services.

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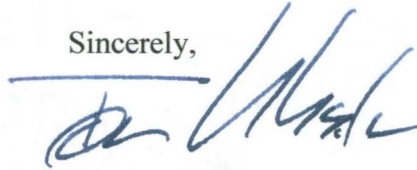
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Tom Wheeler



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 27, 2015

The Honorable Vicky Hartzler
U.S. House of Representatives
1023 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Hartzler:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to update our competitive bidding rules to provide small businesses and rural service providers with greater flexibility to compete in today's wireless marketplace. I appreciate your leadership and support for our efforts to ensure that *bona fide* small businesses and eligible rural service providers have the opportunity to participate in our spectrum auctions and in the provision of spectrum-based services.

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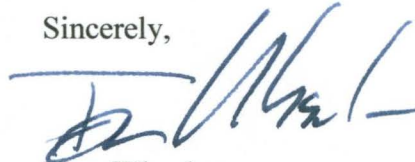
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Tom Wheeler



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 27, 2015

The Honorable French Hill
U.S. House of Representatives
1229 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Hill:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to update our competitive bidding rules to provide small businesses and rural service providers with greater flexibility to compete in today's wireless marketplace. I appreciate your leadership and support for our efforts to ensure that *bona fide* small businesses and eligible rural service providers have the opportunity to participate in our spectrum auctions and in the provision of spectrum-based services.

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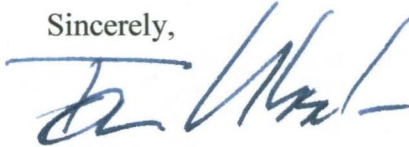
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Page 2—The Honorable French Hill

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Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 27, 2015

The Honorable Cynthia M. Lummis
U.S. House of Representatives
113 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lummis:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to update our competitive bidding rules to provide small businesses and rural service providers with greater flexibility to compete in today's wireless marketplace. I appreciate your leadership and support for our efforts to ensure that *bona fide* small businesses and eligible rural service providers have the opportunity to participate in our spectrum auctions and in the provision of spectrum-based services.

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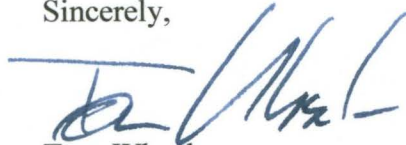
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Page 2—The Honorable Cynthia M. Lummis

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Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 27, 2015

The Honorable Kristi Noem
U.S. House of Representatives
1323 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Noem:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to update our competitive bidding rules to provide small businesses and rural service providers with greater flexibility to compete in today's wireless marketplace. I appreciate your leadership and support for our efforts to ensure that *bona fide* small businesses and eligible rural service providers have the opportunity to participate in our spectrum auctions and in the provision of spectrum-based services.

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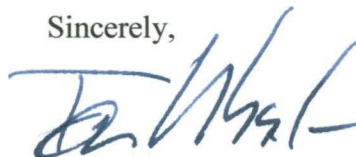
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Tom Wheeler