

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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July 28, 2015

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St SW
Washington, DC 20554-0004

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

We urged the Commission to preserve the duplex gap for use by wireless microphones in all markets. We are encouraged by the Commission's willingness and openness to study a wide range of options to accommodate wireless microphones but such openness should maximize the amount of spectrum available to accommodate wireless microphones.

In particular, local broadcast television stations in our communities would be severely impacted by the FCC's recent decision to do away with the 4 MHz duplex gap. Wireless microphones play an important role in news gathering. It is an essential tool that enables local broadcasters to cover local and national news, including breaking news and natural and man-made disasters.

Last year, the Commission took the controversial step of eliminating the exclusive channels that are reserved in the broadcast television spectrum band to ensure that broadcasters have access to some spectrum for wireless microphones. The Commission also adopted a compromise proposal that would have allowed wireless microphones to use 4 MHz of spectrum in the "duplex gap", a guard band between the uplink and downlink portions of the new wireless band to continue to operate following the upcoming broadcast incentive auction. Now, we understand that the Commission has reversed course, and intends to move forward with a new proposal that will leave local broadcasters in some markets with no reserved spectrum for the wireless microphones that are essential to cover breaking news.


We urge the Commission to reject this proposal, and instead to preserve the duplex gap for use by wireless microphones in all markets, which will enable broadcasters and other news outlets to continue to rely on this critical technology in their reports.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress


G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress


Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress