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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

July 8, 2015

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEES ON
SELECT REVENUE MEASURES
AND
HUMAN RESOURCES

*Spectrum
Incentive
Auctions*

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

Dear Commissioners:

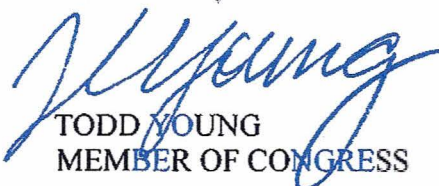
We commend the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for its ongoing work to design and implement the 600 MHz Broadcast Incentive Auction (Incentive Auction). Given its propagation characteristics, 600 MHz spectrum provides a unique opportunity to ensure that consumers, small businesses, students, agriculture and energy producers and others based in rural America have access to state-of-the-art wireless broadband communication services.

Section 309(j) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, requires the agency to ensure that rural telephone companies have the opportunity to participate in the provision of spectrum-based services. The Chairman's proposed bidding credit rules are a positive step toward promoting a competitive marketplace and ensuring rural consumers obtain wireless services that are reasonably comparable to their urban counterparts.

We are encouraged to see that the rules proposed recognize the congressional intent in Section 309(j), but we recommend that the FCC adjust its rural carrier bidding credit proposal to more comprehensively address the challenges faced by rural telephone companies. A well-designed rural telco bidding credit would offer rural providers the opportunity to better compete for spectrum.

Given our shared commitment to rural consumers and a successful implementation of the Incentive Auction, we urge the FCC to readjust the rural provider bidding credit to help ensure that rural providers have a reasonable opportunity to obtain spectrum to serve rural consumers. We look forward to hearing from you about this important matter.

Sincerely,


TODD YOUNG
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


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