

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

Received & Inspected

JUN 19 2015

FCC Mail Room

June 8, 2015

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

We write to you regarding the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Fiscal Year 2016 budget request, which includes plans to close two-thirds of the FCC field offices across the country and cut nearly half of the field agents staffing those offices. We have reservations about the FCC's proposal, particularly as it pertains to the closing of the Boston field office.

The FCC is uniquely positioned in its authority and expertise to address radio spectrum interference issues. Field offices are on the front lines for onsite investigations and inspections, helping resolve a variety of interference problems, including public safety spectrum issues. The agency's field offices have served the public with proactive spectrum enforcement efforts in this area. We are concerned that the proposal to close sixteen field offices could jeopardize the agency's ability to prevent spectrum interference.

The FCC's Boston field office is the point of contact for interference complaints throughout New England's six states. Reducing and relocating Boston's agents could disconnect the FCC from local incidents, potentially challenging the FCC's ability to maintain the 24-hour response standard. This is a concern given the public safety communications interference the FCC Boston field office handles, involving local police departments and emergency response organizations, as well as the Federal Aviation Administration at the region's airports.

We support efforts to update and modernize agency policies in order to effectively administer laws and regulations, yet such measures should be balanced with the Commission's ability to carry out its duties in a timely fashion. We urge the FCC to carefully consider these concerns in order to reach a balanced solution that safeguards local area knowledge and public safety in New England and

throughout the country, while also providing for more streamlined operations of the field offices.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Kelly A. Ayotte
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator