



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

September 22, 2015

The Honorable Brendan F. Boyle  
U.S. House of Representatives  
118 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Boyle:

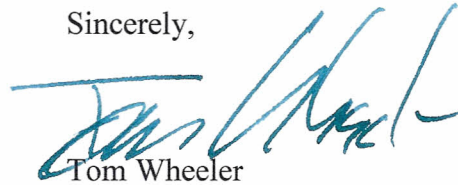
Thank you for your letter concerning the FCC's July 16<sup>th</sup> *Field Modernization Order* and its potential impact on radio spectrum interference issues in the Philadelphia area. I believe that the Commission's final decision in this matter represents a fact-based, balanced approach to modernizing a 20-year-old field office structure that was out of step with current technology and budgetary limitations. Although it is never easy to close underused federal facilities or improve management in ways that eliminate long-held positions, the Commission's goal was to maximize the effectiveness of its operations to meet 21<sup>st</sup> Century needs and realities. With that in mind, we studied a broad range of potential reorganization options, reviewed concerns with stakeholders and modified our contractor's initial recommendations to ensure nationwide enforcement coverage.

Although the final decision by the Commission was to close the Philadelphia office and eliminate the five positions there, we determined that the region was well covered by our primary Enforcement Bureau office in Columbia, Maryland and the nearby New York office. Also, all of our agents will now have electric engineering backgrounds, providing for better access to technical assistance on the ground, where and when needed. These agents will make effective use of our mobile vehicle operations and newly enhanced information technology. As far as an overall regional presence, it is important to note that the FCC maintains a facility in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania that provides consumer support, as well as redundant applications for some of our systems. We consider our work in this region to be very important and its close proximity to the Columbia and D.C. offices permits day trips and routine interaction between facilities.

At this stage, the Commission has consulted with OMB and the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, and is initiating the first phase of the reorganization. Please be assured that as part of this implementation, we are maintaining a commitment to respond in a timely manner to interference issues anywhere in the nation, including responding to all public safety spectrum complaints within one day. As a follow-up to our *Field Modernization Order*, the Enforcement Bureau released an August 27<sup>th</sup> *Public Notice* (PN) to enhance procedures for public safety and industry interference complaints. The PN outlined an escalation process for interference complaints that will also improve complainants' ability to stay informed of the status of their complaint. This process will streamline the interference complaint intake and response and result in more effective enforcement for our highest priority interference complaints.

Our Field Modernization Order and the August 27<sup>th</sup> PN are part of a comprehensive approach toward efficient enforcement. We see the future of enforcement as an efficient, holistic, and systematic process supported by better overall management and modern IT systems. I look forward to continuing our efforts to improve the Commission's enforcement practices and I am certain that they will yield successful, long-lasting results. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tom Wheeler



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WASHINGTON

September 22, 2015

The Honorable Michael G. Fitzpatrick  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2400 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Fitzpatrick:

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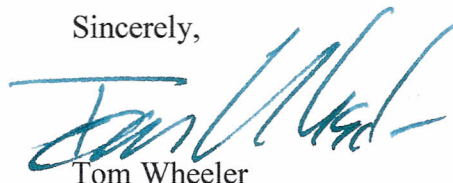
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WASHINGTON

September 22, 2015

The Honorable Bob Casey  
United States Senate  
393 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Casey:

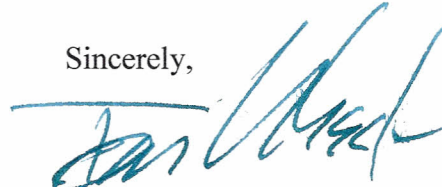
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Tom Wheeler