

August 4, 2015

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

We write to express our great concern regarding the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) recent announcement of plans to close its Philadelphia field office. We believe this decision will undermine the FCC's ability to oversee the critical Northeast market and leave broadcasters more vulnerable to threats, while cutting important federal jobs in the Philadelphia area. We believe this decision warrants careful scrutiny and attention, and greater dialogue with our offices and other affected stakeholders.

At its core, the FCC is charged with the important responsibility of ensuring the smooth operation of interstate and international communications by radio, television, wire, satellite and cable. The Philadelphia field office has a longstanding and proven track record of success in resolving disruptions within its jurisdiction – assisting organizations such as the Philadelphia Police Department, the United States Coast Guard, local fire departments, emergency response organizations, and countless small businesses and consumers. This office's accomplished history speaks volumes to the important, and often thankless, public service its employees perform. The termination of this field office will result in the immediate loss or relocation of these jobs, including constituents whom we proudly represent.

New and fast-changing threats like cyber-attacks, as well as longer-standing threats like piracy and radio interference, pose serious challenges to our region's media outlets. We believe one field office, located in New York City, cannot effectively protect all of Pennsylvania, New York, and parts of New England from these serious threats. The loss of the Philadelphia facility would no doubt greatly impact the FCC's ability to efficiently and effectively monitor and maintain the integrity of communications services in these critical markets.

With this in mind, we respectfully urge you to reevaluate the decision to close the Philadelphia office. We believe both the field office and its employees are critical to carrying out the FCC's core duties. Thank you for considering our views. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



Mike Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress