



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

September 22, 2015

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

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. 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. Importantly, our final decision ensures that the Commission's New York facility will be better designed to cope with the difficult and special problems in that region of the nation. Although we closed the underused Buffalo office, we have shifted staff and increased the overall size and engineering capabilities of our agent pool in New York City.

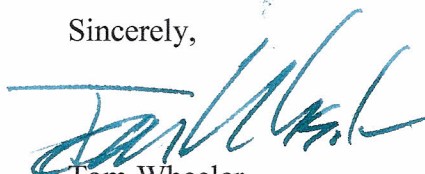
At this stage, the Commission has consulted with OMB and the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, and is initiating the first phase of the reorganization. Please be assured that as part of this implementation, we are maintaining a commitment to respond in a timely manner to interference issues 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.

With regard to your specific concerns about pirate radio, the Commission has issued more than 100 pirate radio enforcement actions during Fiscal Year 2015 and we will continue to enforce our rules to protect industry stakeholders and consumers. We also are exploring ways to support the recommendations of our June 29<sup>th</sup> Pirate Radio Roundtable, including developing new educational tools, as well as working with Congress to strengthen Communications Act provisions to extend to those who aid and abet pirate operators. Given your significant interest in pirate enforcement, I would be pleased to arrange for you and/or your staff to participate in a

“ride along” with our staff to experience first-hand the work of our field agents and the resource-intensive challenges that they face in their daily work.

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", is written over a horizontal line.

Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

September 22, 2015

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senate  
478 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

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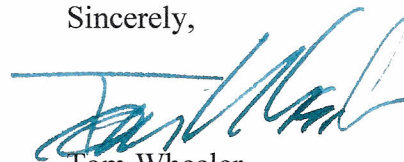
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Tom Wheeler