



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

December 22, 2015

The Honorable G.K. Butterfield  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2305 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Butterfield:

Thank you for your November 2, 2015 letter urging the Commission to ensure that emergency alerts are available to the entire public, regardless of the languages they speak. We at the Commission share the Committee's interest in promoting the delivery of alerts from the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) to as wide an audience as possible, including those who communicate in a language other than English, who have a limited understanding of the English language, as well as to persons with disabilities. As you note, the Commission and industry took an initial step by requiring that EAS alerts be delivered in the Common Alerting Protocol, a common language that allows alert initiators to provide alerts in multiple languages. The Commission has taken several further steps recently to advance this important goal:

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- On September 22, 2015, the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau adopted an order granting ECHO (Emergency, Community, Health and Outreach) Minnesota, a program and service of Twin Cities Public Television, a waiver of certain EAS and WEA rules to allow the broadcast or transmission of multilingual public service announcements that contain a simulated WEA and EAS Attention Signals and EAS codes as part of a public outreach program to educate English and non-English speakers in the state of Minnesota about WEA, EAS and other emergency alerts.
- On August 27, 2015, the Commission's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau and the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau held a workshop on ways to improve the EAS that examined, among other things, how to improve the accessibility of alerts by providing alerts in multiple languages. At the workshop, ECHO exhibited its ability to deliver alerts in multiple languages, including Spanish, Somali and Hmong. Notably,

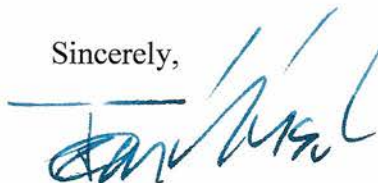
ECHO demonstrated that the decision to deliver alerts in a particular language or languages is most effective when determined by community outreach and consensus.

- Currently, the Commission has an order on circulation that addresses the Petition for Immediate Interim Relief filed by the Independent Spanish Broadcasters Association, the Office of Communication of the United Church of Christ, Inc., and the Minority Media and Telecommunications Council.

The Commission continues to refine and improve the efficacy of the EAS and WEA to facilitate the delivery of life and property-saving alerts to the entire public, regardless of the language they speak or any vision or hearing impairments they may have. Our goal, through our recently circulated order, is to gain a much fuller understanding of what States, localities, and individual EAS Participants are doing – and can do in the future - to facilitate the distribution of multilingual alert content to their communities, and to work with the communities to further advance their abilities to reach populations where English is not well understood. We will continue to work to enable such efforts, both locally and within the broader context of the nationwide EAS system.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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December 22, 2015

The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2351 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Clarke:

Thank you for your November 2, 2015 letter urging the Commission to ensure that emergency alerts are available to the entire public, regardless of the languages they speak. We at the Commission share the Committee's interest in promoting the delivery of alerts from the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) to as wide an audience as possible, including those who communicate in a language other than English, who have a limited understanding of the English language, as well as to persons with disabilities. As you note, the Commission and industry took an initial step by requiring that EAS alerts be delivered in the Common Alerting Protocol, a common language that allows alert initiators to provide alerts in multiple languages. The Commission has taken several further steps recently to advance this important goal:

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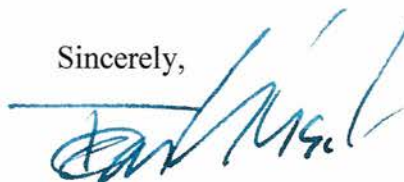
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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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December 22, 2015

The Honorable Diana DeGette  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2368 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman DeGette:

Thank you for your November 2, 2015 letter urging the Commission to ensure that emergency alerts are available to the entire public, regardless of the languages they speak. We at the Commission share the Committee's interest in promoting the delivery of alerts from the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) to as wide an audience as possible, including those who communicate in a language other than English, who have a limited understanding of the English language, as well as to persons with disabilities. As you note, the Commission and industry took an initial step by requiring that EAS alerts be delivered in the Common Alerting Protocol, a common language that allows alert initiators to provide alerts in multiple languages. The Commission has taken several further steps recently to advance this important goal:

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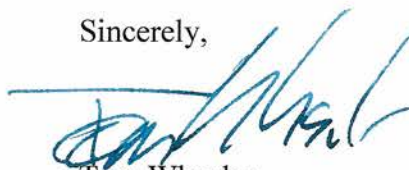
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December 22, 2015

The Honorable Mike Doyle  
U.S. House of Representatives  
239 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Doyle:

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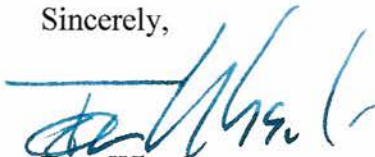
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Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler





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December 22, 2015

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Eshoo:

Thank you for your November 2, 2015 letter urging the Commission to ensure that emergency alerts are available to the entire public, regardless of the languages they speak. We at the Commission share the Committee's interest in promoting the delivery of alerts from the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) to as wide an audience as possible, including those who communicate in a language other than English, who have a limited understanding of the English language, as well as to persons with disabilities. As you note, the Commission and industry took an initial step by requiring that EAS alerts be delivered in the Common Alerting Protocol, a common language that allows alert initiators to provide alerts in multiple languages. The Commission has taken several further steps recently to advance this important goal:

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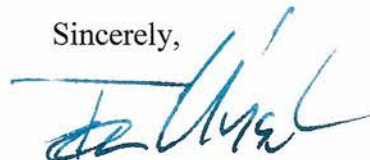
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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December 22, 2015

The Honorable Dave Loebsack  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1527 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Loebsack:

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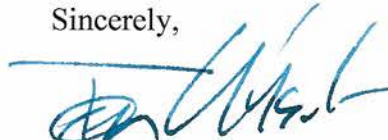
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December 22, 2015

The Honorable Ben Ray Luján  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2446 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Luján:

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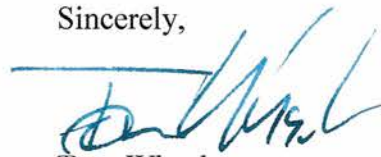
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December 22, 2015

The Honorable Doris Matsui  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2434 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Matsui:

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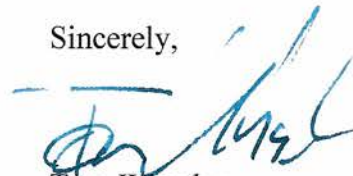
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December 22, 2015

The Honorable Jerry McNerney  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1210 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McNerney:

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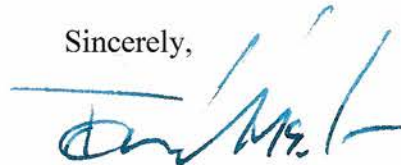
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I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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

Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

December 22, 2015

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pallone:

Thank you for your November 2, 2015 letter urging the Commission to ensure that emergency alerts are available to the entire public, regardless of the languages they speak. We at the Commission share the Committee's interest in promoting the delivery of alerts from the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) to as wide an audience as possible, including those who communicate in a language other than English, who have a limited understanding of the English language, as well as to persons with disabilities. As you note, the Commission and industry took an initial step by requiring that EAS alerts be delivered in the Common Alerting Protocol, a common language that allows alert initiators to provide alerts in multiple languages. The Commission has taken several further steps recently to advance this important goal:

- On November 19, 2015, we adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in which we proposed changes to improve WEA message content and to ensure that the messages reach those people for whom an alert is relevant. As part of this community focus on alerting, the NPRM seeks comment on whether advances in technology will allow WEA to be offered in languages other than English, and on the extent to which supplementing alert text with multimedia will contribute to alert accessibility.
- On September 22, 2015, the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau adopted an order granting ECHO (Emergency, Community, Health and Outreach) Minnesota, a program and service of Twin Cities Public Television, a waiver of certain EAS and WEA rules to allow the broadcast or transmission of multilingual public service announcements that contain a simulated WEA and EAS Attention Signals and EAS codes as part of a public outreach program to educate English and non-English speakers in the state of Minnesota about WEA, EAS and other emergency alerts.
- On August 27, 2015, the Commission's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau and the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau held a workshop on ways to improve the EAS that examined, among other things, how to improve the accessibility of alerts by providing alerts in multiple languages. At the workshop, ECHO exhibited its ability to

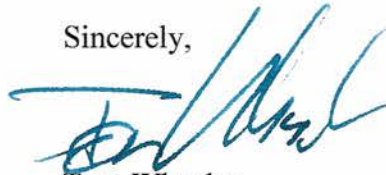
deliver alerts in multiple languages, including Spanish, Somali and Hmong. Notably, ECHO demonstrated that the decision to deliver alerts in a particular language or languages is most effective when determined by community outreach and consensus.

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

December 22, 2015

The Honorable Bobby L. Rush  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2268 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rush:

Thank you for your November 2, 2015 letter urging the Commission to ensure that emergency alerts are available to the entire public, regardless of the languages they speak. We at the Commission share the Committee's interest in promoting the delivery of alerts from the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) to as wide an audience as possible, including those who communicate in a language other than English, who have a limited understanding of the English language, as well as to persons with disabilities. As you note, the Commission and industry took an initial step by requiring that EAS alerts be delivered in the Common Alerting Protocol, a common language that allows alert initiators to provide alerts in multiple languages. The Commission has taken several further steps recently to advance this important goal:

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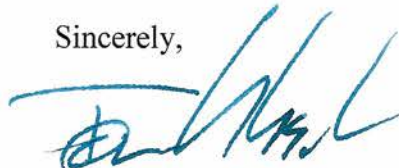
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Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

December 22, 2015

The Honorable Peter Welch  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2303 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Welch:

Thank you for your November 2, 2015 letter urging the Commission to ensure that emergency alerts are available to the entire public, regardless of the languages they speak. We at the Commission share the Committee's interest in promoting the delivery of alerts from the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) to as wide an audience as possible, including those who communicate in a language other than English, who have a limited understanding of the English language, as well as to persons with disabilities. As you note, the Commission and industry took an initial step by requiring that EAS alerts be delivered in the Common Alerting Protocol, a common language that allows alert initiators to provide alerts in multiple languages. The Commission has taken several further steps recently to advance this important goal:

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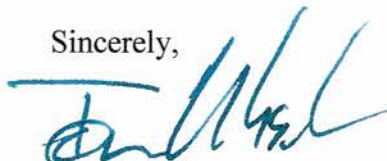
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Tom Wheeler





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

December 22, 2015

The Honorable John Yarmuth  
U.S. House of Representatives  
435 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Yarmuth:

Thank you for your November 2, 2015 letter urging the Commission to ensure that emergency alerts are available to the entire public, regardless of the languages they speak. We at the Commission share the Committee's interest in promoting the delivery of alerts from the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) to as wide an audience as possible, including those who communicate in a language other than English, who have a limited understanding of the English language, as well as to persons with disabilities. As you note, the Commission and industry took an initial step by requiring that EAS alerts be delivered in the Common Alerting Protocol, a common language that allows alert initiators to provide alerts in multiple languages. The Commission has taken several further steps recently to advance this important goal:

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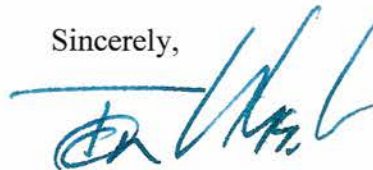
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Tom Wheeler