



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

April 5, 2016

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

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

Thank you for your letter regarding the waiver petition filed by the Enlarged City School District of Middletown, NY. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding, CC Docket No. 91-281, and considered as part of the Commission's review.

As you know, the Commission's rules prohibit common carriers from disclosing the calling party telephone number to the called party when the calling party has chosen to block caller identification information from being transmitted. This requirement was adopted to protect the privacy of consumers who choose not to disclose their phone numbers to called parties. Nonetheless, as our Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau has recognized in past cases where calls with blocked caller ID information have been used to convey threats, such an exigency justifies the limited waiver of our rule in order to facilitate prompt investigation of the threatening calls.

The Bureau issued a Public Notice seeking comment on the Middletown petition on March 2, 2016. Comments were due on March 16, and reply comments on March 23. The Bureau is now closely examining the record and the issues presented in the waiver petition, and expects to issue its decision in the immediate future.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", written over a horizontal line.

Tom Wheeler



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THE CHAIRMAN

April 5, 2016

The Honorable Sean Patrick Maloney
U.S. House of Representatives
1529 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Maloney:

Thank you for your letter regarding the waiver petition filed by the Enlarged City School District of Middletown, NY. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding, CC Docket No. 91-281, and considered as part of the Commission's review.

As you know, the Commission's rules prohibit common carriers from disclosing the calling party telephone number to the called party when the calling party has chosen to block caller identification information from being transmitted. This requirement was adopted to protect the privacy of consumers who choose not to disclose their phone numbers to called parties. Nonetheless, as our Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau has recognized in past cases where calls with blocked caller ID information have been used to convey threats, such an exigency justifies the limited waiver of our rule in order to facilitate prompt investigation of the threatening calls.

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Tom Wheeler