



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 27, 2016

The Honorable Michael Bennet  
United States Senate  
261 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bennet:

Thank you for your letter supporting the Commission's efforts to identify spectrum for 5G technologies and encouraging us to initiate a rulemaking to explore increased flexibility for the future use of Multichannel Video Distribution and Data Service (MVDDS) spectrum for 5G mobile broadband services.

I share your commitment to ensuring that the United States maintains its leadership in wireless innovation as the world transitions to the next generation of wireless technology, 5G. If we build off of the spectrum policies that led to our success in 4G – creating flexible licensing and technical rules – we will continue to lead the wireless revolution. To that end, the Commission recently adopted the *Spectrum Frontiers Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM)* that dramatically increases the amount of spectrum available for 5G services.

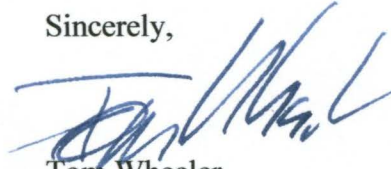
We initiated our Spectrum Frontiers proceeding with the goal of acting incredibly quickly to make new spectrum available. I am pleased that we were able to vote on rules less than 10 months after launching this proceeding. But our vote this month is not the end. We will continue to push to consider additional bands that might be capable of facilitating next generation technologies and have proposed a number of additional bands in the *FNPRM*. At this point, the Spectrum Frontiers proceeding continues to focus on bands above 24 GHz. However, spectrum bands like the MVDDS band that fall below the 24 GHz band may indeed hold potential for future wireless technologies and services to take hold, and there may be an opportunity to consider these bands in the future.

In addition, a petition for rulemaking asking the Commission to permit MVDDS licensees to use their spectrum to provide mobile broadband service was recently filed with the Commission. Consistent with our customary practice, this petition was placed on Public Notice to afford all interested parties an opportunity to file comments. Comments in response to the petition were due last month, and Commission staff is reviewing the record that developed in response to this petition.

Page 2—The Honorable Michael Bennet

I appreciate your interest in this matter, and my staff will endeavor to keep you informed as these proceedings progress. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler