

TOM MARINO

10TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
REGULATORY REFORM, COMMERCIAL AND
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Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioners,

The digital divide leaves more than 19 million rural Americans without any access to broadband internet. As a Representative from a largely rural district in Pennsylvania, I take seriously my responsibility to bring affordable and reliable broadband access to my constituents. To further that effort, I recently introduced H.R. 6871, the "Rural Broadband Connectivity Act of 2018," to incentivize private investment in rural broadband infrastructure.

While this legislation is a good first step, I believe we must do more. As Chairman of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law, I believe we must foster a regulatory environment that encourages competition in this area.

As you may know, a number of internet service providers are interested in using a technology called TV white spaces (TVWS) to deliver affordable broadband to rural customers. Many providers, however, have expressed frustration that regulatory uncertainty hinders the needed investments and innovation in TVWS technology that would improve performance and reduce costs.

In my view, the Commission has a strong role to play in removing the regulatory barriers that are discouraging the further development of TVWS technology. To that end, I respectfully ask the Commission to finalize its outstanding proceedings and adopt appropriate technical rules that ensure sufficient spectrum is available below 700 MHz for unlicensed broadband. Furthermore, I ask that the Commission consider implementing policies that would enable the growth of IoT opportunities in precision agriculture and broadband connectivity on specialized vehicles such as school buses.

I sincerely appreciate your efforts to bridge the digital divide and hope you will consider taking action to remove the regulatory barriers hindering TVWS development, so broadband can reach more consumers in my rural district.

Sincerely,

Tom Marino
Member of Congress