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COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
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MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS,
AND RELATED AGENCIES SUBCOMMITTEE

TIM RYAN
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
13TH DISTRICT, OHIO

Received & Inspected

October 3, 2018

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FCC Mailroom

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioners:

As you know, the digital divide leaves more than 19 million Americans without any access to broadband. As a Member of Congress, I take seriously my responsibility to bring affordable and reliable broadband to each of my constituents. While Congress and the FCC have made progress in expanding connectivity in rural areas, I believe we must do more.

In my state, TV white spaces are being leveraged to deliver affordable broadband to rural customers. However, some have expressed frustration that regulatory uncertainty is hindering the needed investments and innovation in TV white space technology that would improve performance and reduce costs. Investment and innovation are key to getting more Americans online.

The FCC has the power to remove the regulatory uncertainty that discourages the development of TV white spaces for broadband. I respectfully urge you to finalize the adoption of appropriate technical rules and ensure sufficient spectrum is available below 700 MHz for unlicensed broadband. I also ask that you consider rules enabling innovative methods for expanding broadband connectivity in hard-to-reach geographic areas.

TV white spaces are helping to bridge the digital divide in Ohio, and regulatory delays should not be the reason more consumers cannot access it. I encourage the FCC to take steps to make the regulatory environment more favorable to this kind of innovation.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

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