

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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December 3, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Michael O'Rielly, Brendan Carr and Jessica Rosenworcel
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Pai, Commissioner O'Rielly, Commissioner Carr, and Commissioner Rosenworcel,

According to the Commission's latest broadband deployment report, nearly one in three rural Ohioans lack broadband access. In an era when an internet connection is a necessity for daily life, this number is unacceptable, and it is our shared responsibility to do everything in our power to bridge the digital divide and bring affordable, reliable broadband to each of our constituents. While this has been a priority for the Commission and this Congress, there is still more that must be done.

Here in Ohio, a local internet service provider called Agile Networks is using a technology called TV white spaces (TVWS) to build a network that will reach more than 100,000 of our underserved constituents within the next four years. However, we understand that providers like Agile Networks are frustrated with the regulatory uncertainty that is limiting the needed investments and innovation in TVWS technology that would improve performance and reduce costs – inhibiting this promising technology from being deployed in other states where the digital divide persists.

We are writing to encourage the Commission to finalize its outstanding proceedings, adopt the appropriate technical rules for TVWS deployment and ensure sufficient spectrum below 700 MHz is available for unlicensed broadband use, while also taking necessary steps to ensure TVWS deployment does not interfere with established broadcast operations. Additionally, we urge you to undertake additional rulemaking that would enable Internet of Things (IoT) opportunities for TVWS, such as broadband connectivity for school buses and precision agriculture.

In order for this technology to work for rural Ohioans, we must ensure the regulatory environment in Washington is not holding it back. We know that bridging the digital divide is among the Commission's top priorities. We do sincerely appreciate your efforts and hope you will consider removing the regulatory barriers to TVWS deployment. Such an action would allow the success we are seeing right here in the Buckeye State to be duplicated across the country.

Sincerely,


Bill Johnson
Member of Congress


Brad Wenstrup
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



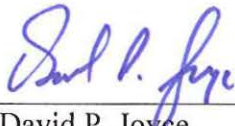
Steve Stivers
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



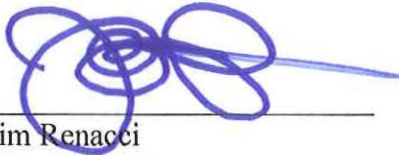
Jim Jordan
Member of Congress



David P. Joyce
Member of Congress



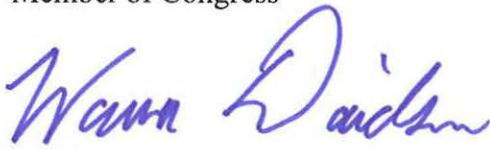
Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Jim Renacci
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



Warren Davidson
Member of Congress