



Representative Michael Ashford
Ohio State Representative 44th House District

June 29, 2015

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Federal Communications Commission
Chairman
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum through Incentive Auctions, Docket No. 12-268; Policies Regarding Mobile Spectrum Holdings, WT Docket No. 12-269*

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

As the ranking minority member on the Ohio House Public Utilities Committee representing the interests of my Toledo constituents and all Ohioans, I am writing to express my concern regarding the 600 MHz incentive auction scheduled for early 2016.

As in many other states, Ohio has deregulated much of the telecommunications industry which has spurred investment in new advanced communications technologies such as wireless broadband. While most consumers have benefitted from advancements in communications service offerings, the basic premise underlying deregulation is that robust competition amongst multiple providers would constrain the biggest providers from overcharging consumers, or inhibiting innovation by smaller providers eager to please their consumers.

Today, consumers are relying more than ever on their mobile smartphones and other devices to communicate and access the internet. My constituents need and want multiple competitive choices in the wireless broadband market, and this incentive auction is critical to the future competitiveness of that market. The fact that the two largest wireless providers currently control 74% of available low band spectrum is problematic, and I urge the Commission adopt auction

Committees:

*Local Government
Insurance
Public Utilities, Ranking Member*

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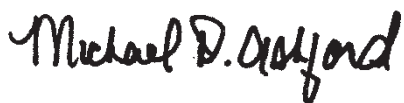
rules that do not enable the largest two carriers to increase their grip on this finite spectrum resource.

Thus, I encourage the Federal Communications Commission to adopt rules that will ensure that multiple facilities-based competitors have a meaningful opportunity to secure low-band spectrum through this auction. The greater number of facilities-based wireless competitors having critical low-band spectrum resources in their spectrum portfolio means expanded customer choice, increased investment, greater efficiency, and more innovation throughout the wireless broadband market, all of which will help protect consumers in the Ohio communications market.

I am confident the best way to promote wireless broadband competition is to increase the amount of the spectrum reserved for non-dominant providers in the 600 MHz incentive auction. Increasing the size of the reserve from 30 MHz to 40 MHz of spectrum or 50 percent of what is made available will enable competitive carriers to offer the types of robust broadband services that consumers demand.

This incentive auction represents what is likely the last opportunity for any wireless service provider to acquire low-band spectrum in the United States. Conducting the incentive auction in early 2016 as scheduled while adopting policies that enable multiple non-dominant facilities-based competitors to secure meaningful quantities of low-band spectrum promises to protect consumer choice and innovation in the wireless broadband market for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael D. Ashford". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a white rectangular background.

Michael Ashford
State Representative
Ohio House, 44th House District

CC: Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel

Commissioner Ajit Pai

Commissioner Michael O’Rielly

