

SENATOR MATT SCHMIT

District 21
75 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155



Senate
State of Minnesota

July 20, 2015

The Honorable Thomas Wheeler
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Use of Incentive Auctions to Expand Mobile Spectrum Ownership
Dockets 12-268; 12-269

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

I am writing as vice-chair of the Minnesota Senate Jobs, Agriculture and Rural Development Committee finance committee with jurisdiction over the state's Public Utilities Commission and its Department of Commerce. I am a strong proponent of expanding telecommunications options and services to all Minnesotans, especially rural and other hard to serve areas. In my capacity as vice-chair, I have authored and advocated for legislation to ensure Minnesota has a vibrant and competitive telecommunications marketplace.

Wireless technology is one means by which the "telecommunications gap" can be filled throughout Minnesota and nationally. I urge the FCC to pursue policies that ensure that all wireless companies have equal access to critical spectrum resources as part of the upcoming 600MHz spectrum auction. Increasing the spectrum reserve from 30 MHz to 40 MHz, will enable all competitive carriers to offer the robust broadband services that consumers demand and Minnesota businesses require.

Intense competition has driven the evolution of telecom services in the United States and around the world; the FCC should do all it can in connection with the upcoming spectrum auction to ensure that this competitive factor is not lost or in any way diminished while also ensuring the broadest distribution of spectrum authority.

Thank you for considering my comments in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Schmit".

Matt Schmit
Vice Chair
Senate Jobs, Agriculture & Rural Development Committee