

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 14, 2014

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

As the Federal Communications Commission votes this week to advance an item that implements key provisions of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, we write to support the Commission on its work to ensure a successful incentive auction.

The wireless marketplace is experiencing a new wave of competition, the benefits of which are being realized by consumers. We urge the FCC to foster these competitive forces and to design its spectrum policy in a way that enables competition to benefit consumers and offer them more choices. Spectrum should be a tool used to enhance innovation. Although no qualified entity should be barred from participating in the auction, the Commission should establish transparent and fair limitations on how much low-frequency spectrum any one carrier can acquire.

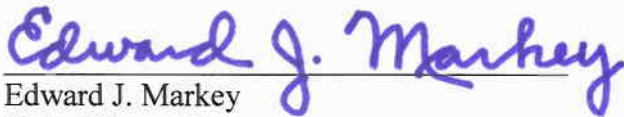
The Commission correctly seeks to support numerous important goals in the upcoming incentive auction including promoting wireless competition and generating sufficient revenue for the priorities funded by the Act. As the FCC continues its work to make the incentive auction a success, we urge the Commission to remain steadfast in its commitment to equitably balance these important objectives. While the Commission considers all its goals, it must also assess the impact this auction will have on competition in the mobile marketplace.

The Act also clearly affirms the Commission's authority to adopt and enforce bidder eligibility rules concerning spectrum aggregation in order to promote competition. Indeed, protecting competition in the marketplace can complement the goal of generating adequate revenue to fully fund the creation of a nationwide public safety broadband network, known as FirstNet, to incentivize broadcasters to voluntarily sell their spectrum if they so choose, and to decrease the national debt. The Commission is right to recognize these goals are not mutually exclusive.

We understand that freeing up spectrum for wireless broadband is critical for the future of mobile communications and innovation. We also believe that we must have robust competition in the wireless marketplace to ensure consumers benefit from innovation and expanded service in both urban and rural areas. Accordingly, we support reserving a portion of available licenses for carriers with limited nationwide low-frequency holdings in order to promote competition, increase auction revenues, and protect against highly concentrated spectrum holding.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure consumers and the nation benefit from the upcoming incentive auction.

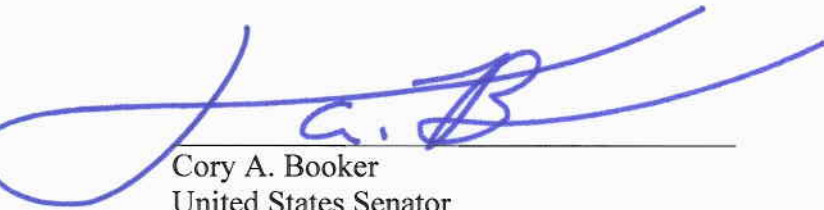
Sincerely,



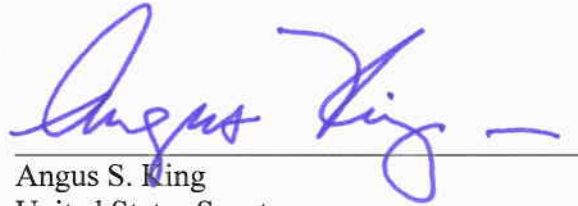
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Angus S. King
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Al Franken
United States Senator