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October 29, 2008

Dear Member of Congress,

I write to you on behalf of the Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA), an association primarily made up of small system integrators that design, install and maintain computer systems and networks for other small businesses. We represent the vast majority of the estimated 32,000 Value Added Resellers (VARs) in the United States, who sell \$43 billion of computer software, hardware and services annually. In addition, CompTIA has certified nearly one million global IT workers on necessary skills, and it advocates for the IT industry globally.

Next Tuesday, the FCC has an opportunity to spark a new current of innovation by approving broadband Internet access through vacant television "white spaces." Today, wireless networks are confined to a narrow band of spectrum at the 2.4 GHz level. Opening up spectrum on vacant television channels below 900 MHz will expand wireless networks by two to three times

The small businesses that we sell to want wireless broadband coverage, and our members stand ready to enable high-quality wireless access. In order for this to happen, the FCC must approve the proposed "white space" rule on November 4th. On October 15th, the FCC's Office of Engineering & Technology (OET) approved the concept of broadband wireless use of these "white spaces." Through rigid testing, they found that a mixture of spectrum sensing and geolocation technology would eliminate any realistic possibility of interference with television channels.

This finding was important for CompTIA, because IT professionals have no interest in polluted television spectrum. The FCC's proposed regulations will bring necessary economic innovation and control to this frontier of computing innovation. And they will promote innovation and increased productivity among small businesses.

Finally, freeing up the use of unused television white spaces will further three policy goals that have been advocated by all sides of the political spectrum. First, it will help prevent U.S. small- and medium-sized businesses from falling behind their global competitors by furthering greater broadband and Internet connectivity at a lesser cost. Second, these proposals will further energy conservation by promoting telecommuting and reducing the deployment of powered computer cables since we view white spaces as a green technology. Third, this technology will result in low-cost broadband connectivity for those currently unable to achieve a connection.

On behalf of CompTIA's membership, I urge you to contact the FCC and encourage them to support the findings of the FCC engineers and move forward on the pending "white spaces" proposal.

Sincerely,

Roger J. Cochetti
Group Director, U.S. Public Policy

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