



October 27, 2008

Congressman Joe Barton  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy & Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2109 Rayburn Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Barton,

On November 4th, while Americans across the country are casting their election ballots, the Federal Communications Commission will vote on a spectrum policy order that will advance American innovation, consumers, and job growth more than any other decision in many years – the "white spaces" order. I share your interest in ensuring that the spectrum is used responsibly and in a manner that ensures television broadcast signals are protected fully. I am confident that the current proposal achieves these goals and as a result should be approved with no further delay.

After years of analysis and hard work by the FCC's engineers, the Commission now has a clear technical recommendation that white spaces devices are ready to move forward. White spaces technologies will form the foundation of a whole new class of mobile wireless broadband services. The applications of this technology are nearly limitless. There will be more complete Internet access available to your constituents in all types of communities, urban and rural, through laptop computers and other wireless devices. This connectivity will spur increased economic productivity by allowing millions of people to get and share information, start home-based and small businesses, and participate in online communities, among many other potential applications.

Serious challenges lie ahead for the next Administration in returning our economy to stability and growth. The economic policy choices made in the coming weeks and months will be crucial in determining our success in turning around the current crisis. This environment makes the FCC's vote even more important. Approving the white spaces order will trigger a boom in investment, job creation, and consumer demand in the high-tech sector, which has been the engine of our information economy, and will therefore contribute to strengthening our economy. We fully anticipate seeing billions of dollars of much-needed new investment support R&D and deployment for this exciting new technology. Innovation will be the basis of American economic recovery and a vote for white spaces is a vote for innovation.

Please support innovation, jobs, and consumers by supporting the FCC's careful work. The FCC has completed the most public, transparent, and intense technical review in its history, and declared that white spaces technologies can proceed. I look forward to bringing our first white-spaces-enabled laptop to your office to show you the benefits you have brought to consumers.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Dell

cc: Neil Fried  
Courtney Reinhard