

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 26, 2016

Chairman Tom Wheeler  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

We write with concerns about the FCC's recently proposed rules on video navigation devices, which we believe could harm rural consumers and small pay-TV providers. Small pay-TV providers are often the communications backbone of small rural communities and are frequently the only providers willing to serve these hard-to-reach areas. While we appreciate your commitment to protecting consumers, we urge you to delay the video navigation device proceedings until the FCC sufficiently studies the specific costs and impacts of the proposal on rural consumers and small providers.

Small providers will not be able to afford the costs that could be associated with building a new architecture to comply with the proposed rule. Even if the Commission considers relief for small operators, the risks that the FCC's proposal poses to them and to consumers do not go away with an exemption. When equipment suppliers, programmers, and other vendors are compelled to meet a new standard, it often leaves small operators with no alternative choice but to comply. Moreover, they are often left with the highest costs and the least support.

Consumers across America are experiencing unprecedented access to high-quality television programming which can be accessed on an increasing assortment of devices. As the video market continues to advance and innovate, it is critical that consumers in rural America experience the same opportunities as urban Americans. Putting additional burdens on the smallest providers could significantly reduce options in the most rural areas, which is why additional work needs to be done to study the costs and impacts of the proposed video navigation device rules before moving forward.

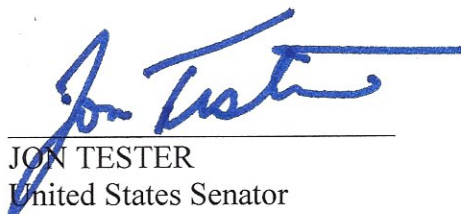
Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



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STEVE DAINES  
United States Senator



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JON TESTER  
United States Senator



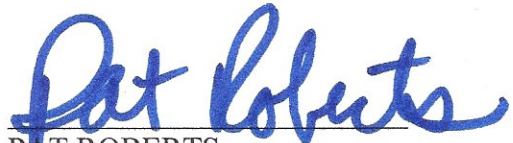
SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO  
United States Senator



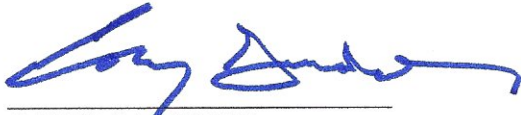
DAN SULLIVAN  
United States Senator



ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.  
United States Senator



PAT ROBERTS  
United States Senator



CORY GARDNER  
United States Senator



DEB FISCHER  
United States Senator



JOE DONNELLY  
United States Senator



DEAN HELLER  
United States Senator