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May 27, 2016

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

I would like to thank you and your colleagues at the Federal Communications Commission for your dedication to protecting consumers and promoting innovation in the communications and entertainment industries. I appreciate your efforts to expand consumer choice and encourage innovation with the recently released proposed rule concerning Competitive Availability of Navigation Devices. In an effort to more fully understand the benefits of the proposed policy prior to its implementation, I would like relay to you some questions that have been brought to my attention.

As the Representative of an area that includes many rural communities, I was interested to learn that concerns have been raised by smaller providers that they may not have the resources to meet the requirements contained in the proposed rule. What assurances can you provide that small providers will be able to meet the standards of the new rule, and that their customers will realize the benefits of increased choice and new technologies?

As you know, the technology innovation in recent years has brought about a great number of benefits for consumers and industry. However, it has also brought increased consumer attention to issues surrounding privacy, and created new challenges in enforcing intellectual property laws. How does the proposed rule take into account privacy concerns and intellectual property rights, and how would any protections in these areas be enforced?

Finally, I have seen some public commentary on the proposed rule which points out that access to a wide variety of programs is already available and seems to be expanding naturally through the market due to consumer demand, and that industry is already deploying new and innovative systems for distributing that content. Given the pace of recent innovation in this field, can you describe why you believe now is an appropriate time for federal action on this issue?

Thank you again for your effort in this regard and for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,



Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress