



April 29, 2011

The Honorable Robert E. Latta
United States House of Representatives
1323 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Latta,

The High Tech Spectrum Coalition (HTSC), which includes Alcatel-Lucent, Apple, Cisco, Ericsson, Intel, Nokia, RIM, Qualcomm and works in conjunction with major high tech associations including the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI), Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), and the Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) is critically concerned about our nation's looming shortage of spectrum for wireless broadband services.

As technology companies that look at future trends and how our sector can meet increasing consumer demands, we strongly believe that voluntary incentive auctions are the best near term mechanism to ensure there is sufficient spectrum to satisfy the growing demand for wireless services. The coalition believes auctions will allow for the best use of our nation's valuable spectrum resources, encourages efficient use of spectrum by licensees, and will generate billions of dollars for the US Treasury. Consequently, we support your *Spectrum Innovation Act*, H.R. 1622 because it specifically authorizes the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to use voluntary incentive auctions to address the looming spectrum crunch.

The widespread adoption of smartphones, pad devices, tablets and similar mobile broadband innovations – and the deployment of faster mobile networks on which these devices run - will continue to dramatically increase the nation's need for new spectrum. The FCC estimates that the U.S. will need an additional 275 MHz of spectrum in just five years to meet mobile data demand from tablets, smartphones, laptops, and other innovative wireless broadband devices. Cisco reported that tablets, the fastest-growing category of devices, can generate 80 times more data traffic than a smartphone. Smartphones generate 22 times more traffic today than a basic handset, while laptops generate 202 times more data than a smartphone. The impending shortage has serious ramifications for consumers and businesses across the country and we applaud your leadership to address this situation before it is too late.

As you have recognized, the time to act is now so that auctions can be appropriately structured and conducted and industry has time to actually build out the necessary infrastructure. Thank you for your time and effort on this critical issue and we look forward to working with you to see incentive auction legislation become law this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rhod Shaw", with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Rhod Shaw
Executive Director
High Tech Spectrum Coalition