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The Honorable Greg Walden
U.S. House of Representatives
2182 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
U.S. House of Representatives
241 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Walden and Ranking Member Eshoo:

The Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), the leading trade association for global manufacturers, vendors, and suppliers of information and communications technology, wishes to thank you for holding an oversight hearing this week regarding the FCC's implementation of voluntary incentive auctions. We urge you to focus on the following areas:

Ensuring Prompt Action. Congress should continue to press the FCC to ensure that the voluntary incentive auction be conducted by the end of 2014. Speedy action by the FCC is necessary simply to keep pace with the exploding demand for commercial wireless services, as well as to support the timely deployment of the nationwide interoperable public safety broadband network – a network that will itself harness the benefits of wireless broadband technology for first responders and other public officials.

Maximizing Licensed Spectrum. The FCC should develop a spectrum "re-packing" plan that maximizes the amount of spectrum available at auction for licensed mobile services. In doing so, the FCC must abide by Congress' mandate that guard bands be minimized so that they are no larger than is technically reasonable to prevent harmful interference between licensed services.

Simplifying Auction Rules and Broadcaster Education. The reverse auction rules should be as simple as possible to attract the greatest possible number of broadcast participants. In advance of the auction, the FCC should educate broadcasters on their options, paying particular attention to broadcasters in the nation's largest cities where spectrum needs are most critical. The spectrum law gives the agency only one chance to "get this right."

Allowing Broad Participation. The success of the incentive auction ultimately hinges on the participation of all possible bidders in the forward auction. The FCC should not limit the eligibility of participants, and the rules should also provide for the earliest possible repacking / reclaiming of the broadcast spectrum. This is essential to ensure that the auction will raise sufficient funds for the public safety network.

For more information, please contact Danielle Coffey at (703)-907-7734 or by email at dcoffey@tiaonline.org. TIA once again thanks you for holding this important oversight hearing.

Sincerely,

Grant E. Seiffert
President