



NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

November 4, 2015

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Chairman – Subcommittee on Emerging
Threats and Capabilities
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James Langevin
Ranking Member – Subcommittee on
Emerging Threats and Capabilities
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Curtis Bramble
Senate President Pro Tempore
Utah
President, NCSL

Karl Aro
Director of Administration
Department of Legislative Services
Maryland
Staff Chair, NCSL

William T. Pound
Executive Director

Re: Spectrum Reallocation & H.R. 1641 – “Federal Spectrum Incentive Act of 2015”

Dear Chairman Thornberry and Representative Langevin:

On behalf of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) we would like to express our support for H.R. 1641, the “Federal Spectrum Incentive Act of 2015.” In 2010, the National Broadband Plan (NBP) set the goal of releasing 500MHz of spectrum by 2020. As of today, we are well short of meeting that goal because the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has only released 150MHz. Passage of this legislation will ensure that the FCC releases the remaining 350MHz of spectrum outlined in the National Broadband Plan.

While NCSL applauds the Commission for structuring the successful AWS-3 reverse auction and the upcoming broadcast TV spectrum auction, there is much more work to be done. The proliferation of smartphones, tablets, and other “smart” devices that allow our homes, cars, and much more to become connected to the internet further exacerbates this problem. We believe this issue, if left unresolved, will hinder the nation’s ability to grow, innovate, and compete globally.

Congress and the FCC should look further than the NBP in attempting to solve our current, and possibly perpetual, spectrum crunch. While we continue to review the 2015 budget, we applaud Congress’s decision to require the Department of Commerce and the FCC to continue identifying more spectrum to relocate. Regardless, NCSL will continue to advocate for spectrum reallocation.

We appreciate the opportunity to express the views of our nation’s state legislatures on this topic. As states play an integral role in maintaining the regulatory framework, it is imperative that the state legislative perspective be considered as this process moves forward.

If you have any questions regarding the concerns of state legislatures or would like to discuss the issue further, please contact Jon Adame (Jon.Adame@ncsl.org; 202-624-8686) in NCSL’s Washington, D.C. office.

Sincerely,

Senator Thomas Alexander
South Carolina Senate
Co-Chair, NCSL Committee on Communications,
Financial Services, and Interstate Commerce

Representative Joe Atkins
Minnesota House of Representatives
Co-Chair, NCSL Committee on Communications,
Financial Services, and Interstate Commerce

cc: Members of the United States House of Representatives Committee on Armed Services
Members of the United States House of Representatives Committee on Energy & Commerce

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