

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



MARTIN O'MALLEY
GOVERNOR

May 30, 2014

STATE HOUSE
100 STATE CIRCLE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1925
(410) 974-3901
(TOLL FREE) 1-800-811-8336

TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

Tom Wheeler, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: IB Docket No. 13-213; RM-11685—Terrestrial Use of the 2473-2495 MHz Band for Low-Power Mobile Broadband Networks;

ET Docket No. 13-49 – Revision of Part 15 of the Commission's Rules to Permit Unlicensed National Information Infrastructure (U-NII) Devices in the 5 GHz Band;

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

In Maryland, we are on the front lines of mobile data usage. In my State, there has been a tremendous growth in the use of mobile devices, such as smart phones, iPads and laptops. It is fair to say that mobile data usage in Maryland is exploding.

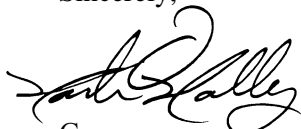
As a result, we need to avoid mobile connectivity issues. It is our duty as leaders to ensure that our residents are not left frustrated when they experience very slow connection speeds in airports, neighborhood coffee shops and restaurants, and other densely-populated areas. It is vital that we protect connectivity for these residents and in the classroom – both in K-12 and our universities.

I know that the Commission is looking at a number of solutions to address this problem. I urge the Commission to move forward with its various proceedings to free up additional spectrum for mobile broadband purposes, including freeing up additional unlicensed spectrum in the 5 GHz U-NII proceeding, incentive auctions, and adoption of the FCC's proposed rules for the low-power mobile broadband networks proposed in the 2.4 GHz proceeding to permit private sector partners to provide services that will expand access to broadband.

The increased mobile data usage is important to economic growth and more sophisticated learning in the classroom. However, the spectrum congestion problem will continue to get worse unless the FCC is able to free up new spectrum for mobile broadband usage. A number of private sector partners offer near-term relief and can be one important part of an overall solution.

I urge the Commission to move forward on these rulemakings as soon as possible.

Sincerely,


Governor

