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United States Senate

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501

September 28, 2007

REPLY TO:

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The Honorable Kevin Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

I am writing to express concern about a proposal pending before the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). It is my understanding that the proposal, OET Docket No. 04-186; 02-380, places new transmitting devices in the TV "white spaces" area. I am concerned that placing these devices in the TV band could cause interference to television reception for Iowans.

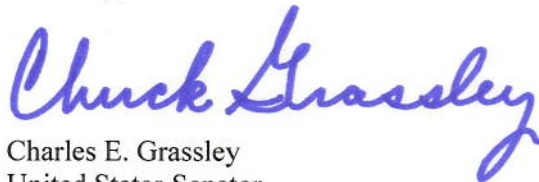
Advances in technologies have put a new wave of communications transmitting devices onto the market with older and more established technologies. Some want to operate transmitting devices on what are known as "vacant channels" that are directly adjacent to channels already being viewed by consumers. We need to recognize that we need to ensure these devices don't work against and interfere with each other, and instead would work in a complimentary fashion if introduced into the TV band.

The FCC's own data reveals that digital television sets could receive interference from unlicensed devices in over 80% of a television station's coverage area. Iowans are used to receiving interference-free over-the-air television for not just entertainment viewing, but for news, educational broadcastings and emergency information. As we move from analog to digital, we need to ensure that this transition is interference-free as we successfully complete it.

The issues before you and your Commissioners are very technical, and that is why we in Congress give the FCC enormous latitude in helping to set our communications policy. We are not the experts. Yet, along with your Commission, we know what we and our constituents want - and that is a smooth transition from analog to digital television on February 17, 2009.

As you direct the FCC to make this transition successfully, I ask that you keep in mind the merits and repercussions of allowing these new transmitting devices into the TV band. Thank you for keeping in mind the views of Iowans as the FCC deliberates decisions on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator

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RANKING MEMBER,
FINANCE

Committee Assignments:

BUDGET
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AGRICULTURE

CO-CHAIRMAN,
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS
CONTROL CAUCUS