FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

April 9, 2009

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Waxman:

Thank you for your March 25, 2009 letter recommending that the Commission address issues of spectrum allocation, assignment, management, and use in the national broadband plan we are developing pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act).

To aid in developing the national broadband plan, the Commission approved a *Notice of Inquiry* (*NOI*) at our April 8 Open Meeting. The *NOI* seeks comment from all interested parties on how we should create and implement a national broadband plan, based on the elements set forth in the statute.

I personally believe that a viable national strategy must include a comprehensive and up-to-date spectrum inventory and should incorporate government as well as commercial and publicly available spectrum. The *NOI* includes a number of questions concerning such an inventory. Additionally, in creating our broadband plan, we will consider the other issues that you raise in your letter, including whether additional spectrum should be allocated for commercial or governmental use, and how the Commission, working with the Department of Commerce, should modify existing spectrum management practices in light of recommendations made by the Government Accountability Office.

I consider the development of the national broadband plan to be an enormously important priority, and I greatly appreciate your leadership on this issue. A copy of your letter will be placed in the national broadband plan docket (GN Docket No. 09-29) to be included in the record of this proceeding. I look forward to working with you and other Members of Congress as the Commission proceeds on the important tasks assigned to it under the Recovery Act. Please let me know whenever I can be of further assistance.

Warm regards,

Michael J. Copps
Acting Chairman