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The Honorable Greg Walden
Subcommittee on Communications & Technology
Committee on Energy & Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Communications & Technology
Committee on Energy & Commerce
2322 A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Walden and Ranking Member Eshoo:

The legislation before the House Communications and Technology Subcommittee today, the "Federal Communications Commission Process Reform Act of 2013," is a good first step toward updating the Communications Act to modernize some of the Federal Communications Commission's processes. Under the reforms in the bill, the FCC will function more efficiently and effectively on matters of great importance to the nation's consumers and our economy.

Specifically, we fully support the requirement that the FCC engage in a cost-benefit analysis as part of all major rulemakings. This brings the FCC into line with the President's regulatory reform efforts for Executive Branch agencies. Allowing more than two commissioners to meet together to discuss and negotiate complex proceedings outside of a public meeting will lead to more cooperation amongst the commissioners and more timely resolution of complex and contentious issues. Ensuring that merger conditions imposed on parties during the FCC's merger reviews are directly related to the merger and are limited to things that the FCC otherwise has authority to do will prevent the FCC from turning merger approvals into a cornucopia of unrelated requirements that the FCC could not adopt under its normal rulemaking process.

While the importance of FCC process reforms should not be understated, there are also fundamental problems with the underlying law. Twentieth Century regulation is holding back a 21st century communications market. It has been 17 years since Congress last significantly revamped the substantive provisions of the Communications Act. The goal of the '96 Act was to create competition in voice, video, and data and to allow companies to package those services to consumers. These goals have been largely achieved. Consumers have more choice than ever and networks continue to advance at a dizzying pace. For example, Verizon Wireless recently announced that its 4G LTE wireless network, which provides typical download speeds of 5-12 Mbps for mobile customers, is now available to more

Chairman Walden
Ranking Member Eshoo
Page 2 of 2

than 99% of the U.S. population. And just this week we announced the availability of our FiOS Quantum Internet service with download speeds of 500 Mbps upload and 100 Mbps download. To put that in perspective, with that service you can download a 5MB high definition movie in 1.4 minutes, while a few years ago that same download could take days. It is time for Congress to modernize the laws written for a bygone era and move toward a modern regulatory framework for the information age.

We appreciate your hard work and dedication to meet these challenges as we move forward together to modernize our outdated telecommunications laws and regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Tommy Thompson", written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.