



For Immediate Release
October 12, 2006

Media Access Project Senior Vice President Harold Feld had the following statement on the FCC's release of a Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on unlicensed use of the broadcast "white spaces." Docket No. 04-186:

"Today's FCC action is another step forward in freeing more public spectrum for productive public use. The FCC has wisely decided to rely on empirical testing rather than the doomsday predictions broadcasters practicing the spectrum equivalent of NIMBY (not in my back yard).

"Commissioner Adelstein has once again proven himself a champion for rural broadband and affordable wireless everywhere through his heroic efforts to keep as much spectrum as possible "on the table" until testing is complete. Given the tremendous need for access to spectrum throughout America -- in rural, suburban, and urban environments -- it is critical that the Commission foreclose use of white spaces only where engineering tests prove there is a genuine risk of harmful interference.

"Finally, MAP particularly applauds the separate statement by Commissioner Copps strongly endorsing unlicensed use of the broadcast white spaces. As Commissioner Copps observed, these are the "**people's airwaves**, to be used in direct service of the public interest" (emphasis in original). The FCC should reject calls to encumber this valuable spectrum with needless licensing requirements. Trying to license such non-contiguous "Swiss cheese" spectrum can only drive up costs and delay the entry of much needed wireless services."

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