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**WISPA-PAC**

a federal connected political action committee operating as a separate, segregated fund of WISPA under Section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code

## A Letter from the President & CEO to the membership of WISPA

May 29, 2025

***We may need your support, on short notice, concerning our CBRS advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill.***

Since joining WISPA as President & CEO almost three years ago, I have been deeply inspired by the nonstop hard work WISPA's Government Affairs and Policy teams undertake on behalf of our members. Matt Mandel, Steve Schwerbel, Andrew Goldberg, Chris Salemm and Ari Storch on GA, and Louis Peraertz, Richard Bernhardt and Stephen Coran (along with a deep bench of colleagues) on Policy, continue to notch up a steady stream of wins for our industry while also disarming potential existential challenges before they emerge as visible threats. This has been especially true over the past two months as NTIA considers the future of BEAD and Congress grapples with the President's budget priorities through the House and Senate budget reconciliation process.

You may recall that about six months ago AT&T filed comments with the FCC suggesting CBRS spectrum could be put to better use. WISPA and many others promptly filed oppositions. But as Congress recently undertook the budget reconciliation process, including a goal of reauthorizing the FCC's spectrum auction authority with a target of raising \$80B-\$100B in revenues to support the larger budget, AT&T saw an opportunity to try a bank shot: they proposed that Congress – not the FCC – relocate CBRS users so that the 3.55-3.7 GHz spectrum band could be re-auctioned, perhaps securing up to \$20B for the budget process.

At first this seemed to provide an "easy button" revenue generator to staffers and elected officials, but the conversation was quickly muddled by the requirements of the Department of Defense which has priority use of the band. While DoD and its supporters pondered their needs, preferences and options, we got busy and pushed back hard, using all the tools in the toolbox, and then some – such as Congressional and agency lobbying efforts; third-party and industry coalition support; increased social media messaging; and direct national, trade press and tech-policy press outreach.

Like a close basketball game where the lead keeps changing and the action is quick and up and down both ends of the court, the details of the reconciliation process are changing minute-by-minute, keeping WISPA fully engaged and vigilant. Last week, the House passed its reconciliation bill, which reauthorized the FCC's auction authority and kept the potential for a CBRS auction on the table. Action now moves to the Senate as it writes its reconciliation bill.



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That noted, we believe that when the House and Senate agree on a final bill, Congress will have stepped back from giving the FCC specific instructions on which bands to auction and for how much, and instead provide the FCC broad auction authority and a range of spectrum bands to consider. This wouldn't eliminate a threat to CBRS, but it would shift the matter to the FCC which already has a strong docket record in opposition to AT&T's designs on the spectrum. However, the matter remains open, and Congress is under intense pressure to navigate its reconciliation process to a successful conclusion, with a goal of finishing up by July 4.

**For this reason, please be alert to any requests or calls-to-action from the WISPA team, and especially our Director of Communications Mike Wendy, concerning CBRS advocacy. Be prepared to answer promptly.** You are the constituent – and, yes, the voter – to whom members of Congress are accountable. You are on the front line and can report first-hand how CBRS makes a difference in your market(s) and across the country. You are the best advocate for your business. Your voice matters, and especially so now.

Feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns in the meantime. Thank you for all that you do, and thanks for supporting WISPA!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David M. Zumwalt".

David M. Zumwalt

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