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(Original Signature of Member)

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To encourage spectrum licensees to make unused spectrum available for use by rural and smaller carriers in order to expand wireless coverage.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To encourage spectrum licensees to make unused spectrum available for use by rural and smaller carriers in order to expand wireless coverage.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Rural Spectrum Acces-
5 sibility Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF LICENSES.**

2 Section 307 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47
3 U.S.C. 307) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(g) EXTENSION OF LICENSES.—

6 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this
8 subsection—

9 “(i) the term ‘rural area’ means any
10 area other than—

11 “(I) an area described in clause
12 (i) or (ii) of section 343(a)(13)(A) of
13 the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
14 velopment Act (7 U.S.C.
15 1991(a)(13)(A)); and

16 “(II) a city, town, or incor-
17 porated area that has a population of
18 greater than 20,000 inhabitants; and

19 “(ii) the term ‘small carrier’ means a
20 carrier with not more than 1,500 employ-
21 ees.

22 “(B) CALCULATION OF NUMBER OF EM-
23 PLOYEES.—For purposes of subparagraph
24 (A)(ii), the number of employees of a carrier
25 shall be determined in accordance with section

1 121.106 of title 13, Code of Federal Regula-
2 tions, or any successor thereto.

3 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—Not later
4 than 90 days after the date of enactment of Rural
5 Spectrum Accessibility Act of 2015, the Commission
6 shall establish a program under which a carrier that
7 receives a license under this section may partition or
8 disaggregate the license in order to make unused
9 spectrum available to small carriers or carriers serv-
10 ing a rural area.

11 “(3) EXTENSION OF LICENSE TERM.—Any car-
12 rier that receives a license under this section and
13 participates in the program established under para-
14 graph (2) shall receive a 3-year extension of the li-
15 cense granted under this section.”.