

August 12, 2013

Hon. James Moore, Minister of Industry
Industry Canada
East Tower, 11th Floor
235 Queen Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H5

Re: Promoting Competition and Fairness in the Telecommunications
Industry

Hon. Minister James Moore:

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) is a network of 160 local chambers of commerce and boards of trade in the province of Ontario, representing 60,000 businesses of all sizes, in all economic sectors and from every region of the province. The OCC's mandate is to advocate strong policies on issues that promote business competitiveness in Ontario.

On behalf of the OCC, I am writing to encourage the federal government to ensure that the rules it applies to the telecommunications industry are fair and promote competition in the sector.

Our Ontario businesses are concerned that under the government's present rules, foreign businesses are given preferential treatment over their Canadian competitors. While Canada's major carriers are being barred from competing for new entrants in the market like Wind and Mobilicity, these same restrictions do not apply to a large American company that is actively exploring entering the Canadian market. This skewed playing field positions an American company to acquire new entrants and, perhaps more importantly, their valuable spectrum, at a significantly depressed price.

Furthermore, current rules allow this same American company to purchase twice the amount of spectrum as Canada's major carriers in the upcoming 700 MHz spectrum auction.

The OCC strongly believes that competition in all industries, including telecommunications, is a good thing. Competition spurs innovation, reduces prices for consumers, and usually generates greater economic output. However, we do not believe that competition is best encouraged, nor the Canadian consumer better off, as a result of a system where Canadian companies and foreign ones are subjected to different rules.



Ontario Chamber of Commerce
180 Dundas Street West, Suite 505
Toronto, ON M5G 1Z8

416.482.5222

occ.on.ca
@OntarioCofC

As such, we encourage the federal government to reevaluate its current rules in an effort to ensure that foreign entrants are held to the same rules and standards as existing companies.

Thank you,

Allan O'Dette
President & CEO
Ontario Chamber of Commerce

cc:

Mike Lake, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada

Thomas Mulcair, Leader of the Official Opposition, New Democratic Party of Canada

Justin Trudeau, Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada