



October 9, 2018

*Ex Parte*

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

*Re:* Spectrum Bands Above 24 GHz for Mobile Radio Service, GN Docket No. 14-177;  
Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure  
Investment, WT Docket No. 17-79;  
Restoring Internet Freedom, WC Docket No. 17-108;  
Expanding Flexible use of the 3.7-4.2 GHz Band, GN Docket No. 18-122

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Wednesday, October 3, Börje Ekholm, President and CEO, Ericsson, Niklas Heuvel dop, President and CEO of Ericsson North America, Lynn Starr, Senior Director, Ericsson Government Affairs, and Jared Carlson, Vice President, Ericsson Government Affairs, met with FCC Chairman Ajit Pai and Rachael Bender, Chairman Pai's Wireless and International Legal Advisor.

Ericsson's representatives commended Chairman Pai on his leadership on infrastructure, spectrum, and net neutrality. Mr. Ekholm applauded the FCC's recent order removing barriers to infrastructure investment. Given the need for hundreds of thousands of new base stations expected in the U.S., reducing the time involved in tower siting is critical for maintaining the lead in 5G. He also expressed appreciation for the Chairman's focus on releasing spectrum, particularly millimeter wave spectrum, to help fuel increased innovation and investment in 5G. Mr. Ekholm noted that the Internet Freedom order clears away a cloud of uncertainty over network slicing, a key component of 5G.

Mr. Heuvel dop described Ericsson's increased investment in the U.S. Specifically:

- To make 5G products available to customers as fast as possible, Ericsson will also begin manufacturing in the U.S. in the fourth quarter of 2018. This will enable Ericsson to operate closer to customers—providing volume production of next-generation radios and the fast introduction of new products into the U.S. market.
- Ericsson will open a new software development center with a baseband focus in 2018, employing more than 200 software engineers once fully operational. The facility and its employees will further strengthen Ericsson's 5G software development.
- And finally, Ericsson will increase its investment in Artificial Intelligence and automation, employing around 100 specialists in North America by the end of 2018. This team will work on utilizing AI technologies to accelerate automation, examine product



road maps and explore new business opportunities. They will focus on boosting the company's current portfolio, strengthening customer engagements and promote innovation of new disruptive business opportunities.

Mr. Heuvelodp urged the FCC to move forward with plans to make more mid-band spectrum available for 5G use. More mid-band spectrum is crucial for the U.S. to maintain its lead globally in the race to 5G. Mr. Heuvelodp stressed that the mobile industry will require significantly more than 100 MHz in the 3.7-4.2 GHz band in order for operators to offer the combination of speed and coverage necessary for new 5G services.

Finally, Messrs. Heuvelodp and Ekholm thanked the FCC for its leadership in getting millimeter wave spectrum to the market quickly.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jared M. Carlson

Jared M. Carlson

Vice President,

Government Affairs and Public Policy

Ericsson