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**Subject:** PR-050359 - Sen. John Kennedy - Jul 18 19  
**Date:** Thursday, July 18, 2019 2:39:29 PM  
**Attachments:** [PR-050359 - Sen. John Kennedy - Jul 18 19.pdf](#)

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**Please see attached letter addressed to the President from Congressional Member(s).**

To: Federal Communications Commission

Action Requested: **Appropriate Action**

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# United States Senate

July 18, 2019

President Donald Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

I am writing to congratulate you on your leadership on expanding access to broadband and accelerating the deployment of next generation communications networks that will foster long term economic growth and benefit American consumers. Increased access to wireless services, including wireless broadband, are critically important to the way Louisianans live, work, and connect to the world.

The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government recently held a budget-related hearing with Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Pai where he emphasized his focus on allocating more spectrum for 5G, especially mid-band spectrum that has the coverage and capabilities needed for fast, high capacity broadband. Both the government and the private sector play an important role in maximizing the use and efficiency of wireless spectrum. I encourage the White House to work with federal government agencies to get them to relinquish or share spectrum that is not being used efficiently.

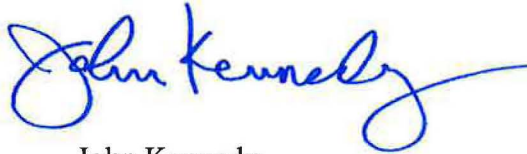
Also at the hearing, Senators from both parties expressed concern over a proposal by the C-Band Alliance that, if adopted, would allow four foreign-owned satellite companies to reap billions of dollars in profits by selling valuable C-band spectrum (3.7-4.2 GHz). It seems preposterous to me that given our growing national debt we would send a significant portion of the proceeds from a sale of public spectrum to foreign owned businesses. Second, allowing the foreign satellite companies to oversee the sale of this important spectrum – rather than letting the FCC run a transparent public auction – would put our 5G future in the hands of foreign-owned companies who have every incentive to put their own financial self-interests above our own national security and economic priorities.

The foreign satellite companies have been working to limit the amount of spectrum being made available for 5G to less than half the amount of mid-band spectrum being devoted to 5G by China. These companies want to clear 200 MHz out of the available 500 MHz, which would constrain supply, artificially drive up prices, and allow the satellite companies to raise prices later when they eventually sell the remaining 300 MHz that are currently available. The C-Band Alliance proposal will cause Americans to pay more for video services, put us on track to losing the race to 5G with China, and decrease the likelihood that rural areas of our country will benefit from this mid-band spectrum. I fear that we will look back on this spectrum as our generation's "high-tech" Panama Canal where we abdicate control over a critical infrastructure asset to the detriment of our nation's economic and national security.

As you know from the many times you have visited Louisiana as president, our state has a vital and diverse rural population. Wireless coverage is critical to the farmers, fisherman, and hunters who spend much of their day in fields and marshes, often without access to a wireless signal. In the event of an accident or emergency, this can mean the difference between life and death. And on the Louisiana coast, wireless access is needed for the safety of the men and women who perform dangerous work on oil rigs but also to provide critical logistics and support to those operations. The bottom line is that wireless connectivity is vital to the health and safety of our people and our state's economic prosperity.

Once again President Trump, thank you for your leadership to advance the development and deployment of high-speed communications networks. I stand ready to work with you as you continue to help America reach its economic potential for the benefit of all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "John Kennedy", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Kennedy  
US Senator

cc: FCC Chairman Ajit Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

October 15, 2019

The Honorable John N. Kennedy  
United States Senate  
416 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kennedy:

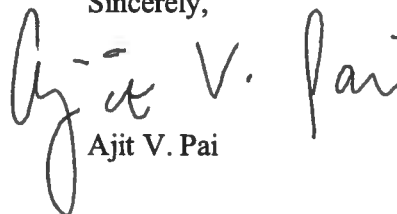
Thank you for your letter concerning the Federal Communications Commission's ongoing rulemaking related to spectrum in the 3.7-4.2 GHz band, commonly called the "C-band." C-band spectrum is widely seen as a critical swath of mid-band spectrum that could drive American leadership in 5G, the next generation of wireless connectivity. This spectrum offers both geographic coverage and the capacity to transmit large amounts of data—a combination that is appealing to entrepreneurs and wireless consumers alike.

However, this proceeding is exceedingly complex, principally because of the number of entities that currently rely on C-band delivered services. In particular, content companies, broadcasters, and cable operators use this spectrum for the delivery of services that consumers rely upon. As a result, bringing this rulemaking to a successful conclusion will require the FCC to balance a variety of interests. That is why we have sought public comment on all aspects of the issues involved. We want to make a fully-informed decision that is consistent with the public interest.

Stakeholders have brought forward different plans for the C-Band, and the Commission is continuing to evaluate those proposals. And as we move forward, I believe that it is important that we keep in mind the following goals. *First*, we are seeking to make available a significant amount of spectrum in the C-Band for 5G. Or to put it another way, the more spectrum that we can make available for 5G, the better. *Second*, we want to make C-Band spectrum available for 5G quickly. *Third*, we believe that this spectrum should generate revenue for the federal government. And *fourth*, we want to ensure that the services that are currently using the C-Band will continue to be delivered to the American people.

The Commission is continuing to assess the record and engage in dialogue with stakeholders regarding these issues. And I am optimistic that the Commission will be able to adopt rules that will advance these objectives in the near future. Thank you once again for your letter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Ajit V. Pai

cc: The White House