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# United States Senate

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June 10, 2019

Received & 407ected

JUN 17 2019

FCC Mailroom

Chairman Ajit Pai  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Pai,

As you know, in May 2018, the Federal Communications Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking concerning the *Transforming of the 2.5 GHz Band* (WT Docket No, 18-120; DA 18-647). Included in this proposed rule is the establishment of local priority filing windows for new EBS License issuance for Tribal Nations and educational entities. I write today in support of this proposal.

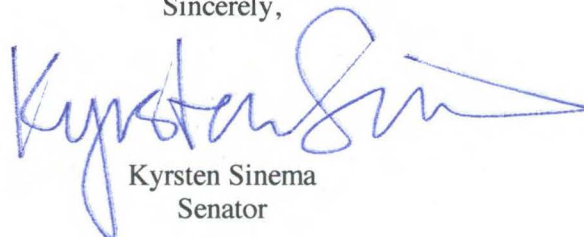
Access to broadband is critical for education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The EBS program has helped foster programs that tackle the homework gap and digital divide by providing needed spectrum for broadband services. In urban areas, EBS licensees are providing much-needed broadband that makes use of the extensive continuous footprint constructed by commercial service providers. The EBS spectrum also supports valuable educational uses such as Wi-Fi on school buses and portable hotspots for students without home internet access. In rural areas, educational institutions have become broadband providers for their communities that otherwise have few options for internet access.

Arizona is home to 22 federally-recognized Native American Tribes and over 350,000 individual Native Americans, one of the largest Native American populations in the United States. Despite many initiatives to increase rural access to broadband, tribal lands still remain part of the most disconnected areas in the nation. Currently, only about 32 percent of people living on tribal lands have access to broadband. To combat this challenge, the Havasupai Tribe in Arizona is using the EBS spectrum to close this digital divide and increase educational outcomes.

The creation of priority windows for tribes and educational entities would provide the FCC with the opportunity to expand rural broadband, accelerate 5G deployment, close the digital divide, and bridge the homework gap. As such, I support the FCC's proposal to establish priority filing windows for Tribal Nations and educational entities. I respectfully urge you to include the priority filing windows for Tribes and educational entities in any final rule.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Kyrsten Sinema  
Senator



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 15, 2019

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senate  
317 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sinema:

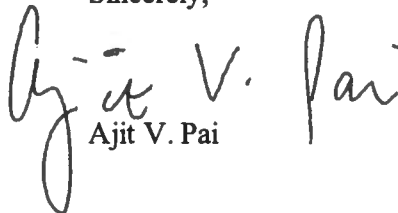
Thank you for your letter supporting the Federal Communications Commission's recent rulemaking regarding the 2.5 GHz band.

Closing the digital divide is the FCC's top priority. Among many other steps, the Commission recently addressed this priority by adopting a report and order aiming to maximize the potential of the 2.5 GHz band to bring advanced wireless services to those who for too long have been on the wrong side of that divide.

Nowhere is that divide more starkly pronounced than in Indian Country. That's why, as part of the recent order, the FCC unanimously agreed to establish a priority filing window in this band for Tribal Nations in order to enable them to serve rural Tribal areas. We want the example of the Havasupai Tribe, which as you observe is using this spectrum to positive effect at the bottom of the Grand Canyon, to be a new norm in Tribal areas.

Thank you for sharing your views on this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai