



April 3, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Ex Parte* Presentation, GN Docket No. 18-122; GN Docket No. 17-258; ET Docket No. 18-295; GN Docket No. 17-183; GN Docket No. 14-177, WT Docket No. 10-112; WT Docket No. 17-79, WC Docket No. 17-84.

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On April 1, 2019, CTIA President and CEO Meredith Attwell Baker and Scott Bergmann, Senior Vice President of Regulatory Affairs for CTIA, met with Commissioner Geoffrey Starks and Bill Davenport, Senior Legal Advisor and Chief of Staff to Commissioner Starks. During the meeting, CTIA highlighted its call for the Federal Communications Commission (“Commission”) and policymakers throughout the Administration to develop a comprehensive national vision for continued wireless leadership.¹ CTIA commended the Commission in particular on its progress toward making spectrum available to support next-generation wireless use, and for its efforts to modernize infrastructure siting policies.

CTIA explained that the next generation of wireless, 5G, will transform every sector of the economy and every aspect of our day-to-day lives, resulting in significant socio-economic benefits—from enabling new and different apps and services for U.S. consumers, to being the hub of innovation and technological progress, to driving the creation of millions of new jobs and contributing billions to the economy.

¹ See Letter from Scott K. Bergmann, CTIA, to Marlene H. Dortch, FCC, GN Docket No. 18-122, GN Docket No. 17-258, ET Docket No. 18-295, GN Docket No. 17-183, GN Docket No. 14-177, WT Docket No. 10-112, WT Docket No. 17-79, and WC Docket No. 17-84 (filed Apr. 3, 2019).



CTIA highlighted the opportunity for policymakers to speed and enhance the potential of this next-generation connectivity through the Administration’s development of a National Spectrum Strategy that adopts a “balanced, forward-looking, flexible, and sustainable approach to spectrum management.”² CTIA encouraged the Commission to work to shape the National Spectrum Strategy, and explained that the Commission has the opportunity to act expeditiously to execute on many of the key elements needed to ensure continued wireless leadership.

CTIA discussed two recently-released reports that should inform the development of the National Spectrum Strategy and the Commission’s consideration of the above-referenced proceedings:

- **National Spectrum Strategy report.** This report, prepared by CTIA, outlines a three-point plan of action to help unleash the spectrum needed to win the race to 5G, including a recommendation for a five-year schedule of additional licensed, exclusive-use spectrum; a recommitment to free-market principles; and further modernization of government policies and procedures;³ and
- **Global 5G Comparison report.** This report, prepared by Analysys Mason, shows that the race to 5G has continued to intensify in terms of 5G-readiness.⁴

The U.S. wireless ecosystem—wireless service providers, tower and infrastructure companies, app developers—is eager to embrace and invest in 5G, as are the vertical industries that stand to benefit, including health care, autonomous vehicles, agriculture, and many more.

² Presidential Memorandum on Developing a Sustainable Spectrum Strategy for America’s Future, Sect. 1 (issued Oct. 25, 2018), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-memorandum-developing-sustainable-spectrum-strategy-americas-future/>.

³ A *National Spectrum Strategy to Lead in 5G*, CTIA (Apr. 2019), <https://api.ctia.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/A-National-Spectrum-Strategy-to-Lead-in-5G.pdf>.

⁴ David Abecassis, Janette Stewart, and Chris Nickerson, *Global Race to 5G – Update*, ANALYSYS MASON (Apr. 2019), <https://api.ctia.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Global-Race-to-5G-Update.pdf>.



CTIA noted that, if we get 5G policy right, the United States will lead the world in wireless, strengthening our economy and our global competitiveness. Adequate spectrum to fuel the full range of 5G innovation and deployments on a timeline that is predictable and aggressive is key to our success. History has shown that, where sufficient spectrum is available for wireless service, the private sector will invest billions of dollars to convert that raw material into innovative products and services that help consumers, create jobs, and grow the economy.

Finally, CTIA explained that, while the U.S. has significantly improved its position in the 5G race, a number of challenges remain that must be addressed. In particular, we need a concerted focus on spectrum—and in particular, mid-band spectrum. Rectifying the mid-band spectrum deficit should be central to policymakers' efforts.

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Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, a copy of this letter is being filed in ECFS. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned with any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Scott K. Bergmann

Scott K. Bergmann
Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs

cc: Bill Davenport