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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

WEBSITE: <http://commerce.senate.gov>

274

May 10, 2019

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

American leadership in Fifth Generation telecommunications technology (5G) is critical for the economic well-being and security of America. Winning the race to 5G requires world-leading technology, access to spectrum on which 5G systems will operate, and the ability to deploy services to the American people, including Americans in rural areas.

While American companies and those of other western nations are leading the way on technology, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) plays a crucial role with regard to spectrum and deployment. Under your leadership, the FCC has made enormous progress in addressing both of these issues. In particular, the FCC has streamlined deployment and moved prudently but with great speed to bring millimeter wave spectrum to market, completing successful auctions for spectrum in the 24 GHz and 28 GHz bands, and preparing for auctions in the 37 GHz, 39 GHz, and 47 GHz bands.

As the Commission has noted, mid-band spectrum offers favorable signal range and indoor penetration combined with increased capacity that comes from frequency reuse; this makes mid-band spectrum particularly important for the initial deployment of 5G. This is especially the case in America's rural areas, where population density makes deployment of millimeter wave spectrum less economical than in urban areas. Currently, the United States lags far behind our competitors in the availability of mid-band spectrum for 5G. While Citizens Band Radio Service will make 70 MHz of licensed spectrum available under a novel licensing scheme, much more is needed.

In MOBILE NOW Congress directed the FCC to evaluate commercial wireless use of spectrum in the 3.7 GHz to 4.2 GHz band, and the Commission has begun the process. In the year since passage of that law, the need for action has become even more acute. It has been estimated that accelerating infrastructure deployment by one year could drive an additional \$100 billion in economic impact in the next three years. Therefore, we urge the Commission to act quickly to make spectrum in the 3.7 GHz to 4.2 GHz band available for 5G.

Your action to speed up the availability of mid-band spectrum for 5G will play a crucial role in determining whether the American people will reap the full benefits of next-generation technology, and whether the United States will win the massive economic benefits associated with leading the world in 5G. Thank you for your attention to this matter and your continued commitment to achieving U.S. global leadership in 5G.

Sincerely,



Roger F. Wicker
CHAIRMAN
Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation



John Thune
CHAIRMAN
Subcommittee on
Communications,
Technology, Innovation, and
the Internet

Cc: Hon. Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

May 30, 2019

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

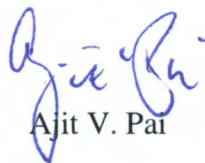
Dear Chairman Wicker:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's ongoing work to allocate more spectrum for 5G, and in particular, mid-band spectrum. I agree that mid-band spectrum is critical to the development and deployment of 5G services. That's why the Commission is working on several fronts to ensure the availability of mid-band spectrum, including the under-utilized 2.5 GHz band, the 3.5 GHz band, and the 4.9 GHz band.

And we have taken particular care to address potential 5G spectrum in the 3.7-4.2 GHz band, commonly called the "C-band." For instance, we authorized the collection of additional information from the band's current users, with responses due on May 28, 2019, and recently sought comment on the Commission's authority to employ auction- and market-based clearing mechanisms that were teed up in our notice of proposed rulemaking. I personally have been meeting with a variety of stakeholders to solicit their views on the appropriate way forward. The input we receive will enable us to move forward as soon as possible—aided in part by the MOBILE NOW Act, which as you note encourages the FCC to focus on this band.

I look forward to continuing to work with you on these matters. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai

Mr. Chairman, thank you for weighing in! I hope all is well with you and your team.



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

May 30, 2019

The Honorable John Thune
Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

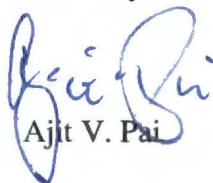
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Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai

Mr. Chairman, grateful to you and your team for all the support of late - from this issue to the rate floor, we appreciate it!