

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 11, 2018

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The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

As co-chairs of the Congressional Spectrum Caucus, we applaud the Federal Communication Commission's (Commission) continued focus on spectrum allocation. As the demand on wireless broadband networks continues to grow, enabling the technologies of the Internet of Things and next generation broadband services like 5G will be critical for our economy and our global competitiveness. The success of these networks – and ensuring consumers have access to the most advanced technology available – will depend on an adequate supply of spectrum.

As you know, both licensed and unlicensed spectrum are a vital part of the spectrum ecosystem. Low-, mid-, and high-bands will be necessary for the full deployment of next generation spectrum-based services. The propagation characteristics of mid-band spectrum make it particularly favorable for a variety of services that can utilize the coverage and capacity requirements of these networks. To that end, we commend the Commission for your plans to move to a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on adding a mobile allocation for licensed services in the 3.7 to 4.2 GHz band. Expanded terrestrial wireless access in this band – while including any necessary protections for incumbent users – has the potential to make this spectrum a core mid-range band for next generation wireless broadband networks including 5G and other innovations.

Your 2017 Mid-Band Notice of Inquiry (NOI) appropriately focused on the importance of additional mid-band spectrum allocations for both licensed and unlicensed services and recognized the need to address them together. We understand that you will move to an NPRM on opening the 5.925-6.425 and 6.425-7.125 GHz bands (collectively, the “6 GHz band”) for unlicensed use in the fall. As you address the demand for mid-band spectrum, we would urge you to take action on the 6 GHz band NPRM expeditiously while also carefully considering the needs of incumbent and critical infrastructure networks. Importantly, the NPRM process will allow all stakeholders to provide valuable input on the ex ante requirements necessary to protect incumbents, and give opportunity to evaluate proposals for interference protection, technical coexistence between users, and how to reliably resolve potential interference should it occur.

The need for licensed and unlicensed spectrum has never been greater. We applaud your current efforts toward a spectrum policy that protects the services offered by incumbent users and allocates additional spectrum for wireless broadband services, so we look forward to seeing further action in the coming months.

Sincerely,



Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



Brett Guthrie  
Member of Congress

cc: Commissioner Mike O’Rielly  
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel  
Commissioner Brendan Carr



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Doris Matsui  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2311 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Matsui:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's continuing work to deploy spectrum for 5G by using the mid-band spectrum. The most important way that the FCC facilitates innovation is by freeing up spectrum for wireless services and making it available for flexible use, and I appreciate your support for this concept.

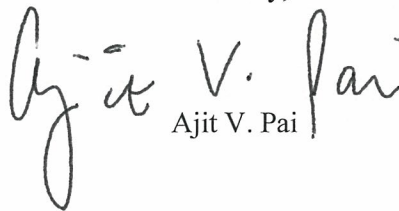
Just this month, we put this concept to work in our review of the 3.7–4.2 GHz band, opening a rulemaking on how best to make the spectrum available to providers of fixed or mobile wireless service. In parallel, we're conducting an inventory of satellite earth stations operating in the band with the goal of ensuring that existing users remain protected.

As you note, unlicensed use is essential for winning the 5G future. That's why this fall, the Commission will consider ways to increase the intensity of use of the 6 GHz band while ensuring that existing operations remain protected.

Please be assured that the Commission will continue its steady march toward promoting innovation, market development, and 5G leadership. We will clear regulatory underbrush as we did recently with unworkable rules that undercut the flexibility of small cell development. We will identify spectrum that we can repurpose for commercial use. And we will put this vital resource to work for American consumers as quickly and expeditiously as possible.

Your letter will be included in the proceedings associated with your comments and considered as part of the Commission's review. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is stylized, with the first name "Ajit" written in a large, flowing script, and "V. Pai" written in a more compact, cursive style.

Ajit V. Pai



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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Brett Guthrie  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2434 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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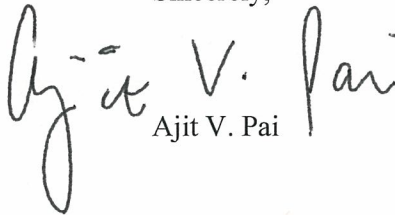
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Ajit V. Pai