

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1806

362

June 13, 2019

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

Dear Chairman Pai:

Recently, telecommunications service providers have begun installing the new wireless broadband infrastructure that is necessary to support 5G in cities across America, including Baton Rouge. While I share your appreciation for the tremendous role that technology plays, both in the economy and in the lives of its users, I am concerned by the rollout of these small-cell facilities in homes and neighborhoods across my district.

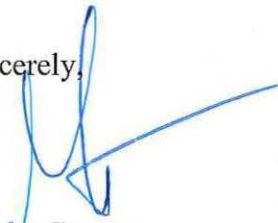
A technological transformation of 5G's magnitude requires a massive support structure, but that deployment cannot come at the expense of property values and neighborhood aesthetics, especially in historic communities. America's 5G leadership is an important national priority, but even a national priority demands consultation with local stakeholders. I respectfully ask you to encourage wireless carriers to collaborate with municipalities on the placement and design of these new transmission systems.

Additionally, recent reports by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) suggest that the 5G network could interfere with satellite data, reducing the accuracy of weather forecasting by as much as 30 percent. I urge you to work closely with the NOAA, NASA, and any other stakeholders to investigate any potential effects of 5G on our nation's ability to forecast and prepare for severe weather events.

As the FCC continues to oversee the deployment of the 5G network, we must remember that the rollout is not happening in isolation. It is crucial to consider the effects that these

innovations will have on existing technologies and communities across America. Thank you for your prompt attention to these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Garret Graves', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Garret Graves
Member of Congress



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

August 21, 2019

The Honorable Garret Graves
U.S. House of Representatives
2402 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Graves:

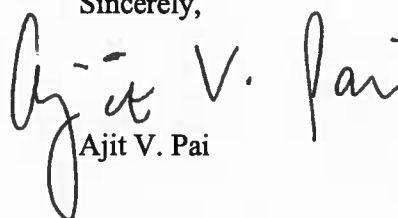
Thank you for your letter regarding 5G deployment. At the FCC, we're working hard to ensure that the United States leads the world in developing this next generation of wireless connectivity so American consumers and our nation's economy enjoy the immense benefits that 5G will bring.

I agree with you on the need to balance various interests when it comes to the deployment of 5G infrastructure. That's why last year, for example, we adopted reforms to streamline the installation of the small cell networks that will be key to 5G deployment while also recognizing the role for local governments regarding the aesthetics of infrastructure placement in their communities.

We have also been proceeding apace to free up spectrum for commercial deployment pursuant to our plan to Facilitate America's Superiority in 5G Technology, also known as the 5G FAST Plan. Earlier this year, the Commission completed its 24 GHz auction (Auction 102). Auction 102 concluded on May 28, with 29 bidders winning 2,904 licenses and raising \$2,022,676,752 in net bids for the Treasury. The auction made available 700 megahertz of spectrum in the 24.25–24.45 GHz and 24.75–25.25 GHz bands for commercial 5G services and applications. The service rules for the 24 GHz band were coordinated with our federal partners and have been public for a long time. The FCC established policies and adopted the service rules for the 24 GHz band in 2017. In developing these rules, we followed the standard interagency coordination process, which involved all relevant agencies with equities in the matter. I can assure you that the rules we have adopted—in line with those rules that apply to adjacent federal users themselves—are sufficient to protect passive weather sensors. In this case, as in all such cases, the Commission's decisions with respect to spectrum have been and will continue to be based on sound science and engineering rather than exaggerated and unverified last-minute assertions.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai