

ROBERT E. LATTA  
5TH DISTRICT, OHIO

DEPUTY WHIP

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3505**

June 20, 2019

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

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Chairman Pai and Secretary Chao,

I write to thank you for your continued interest in advancing automobile safety and wireless innovation in the 5.9 GHz band. I have long recognized the value of this spectrum and hold the position that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) should work with the Department of Transportation (DOT) and other interested stakeholders to determine the most efficient use of this band. The expertise from both agencies is important to this ongoing discussion.

In 1999, the FCC allocated 75 MHz of mid-band spectrum to pave the way for connected cars using dedicated short-range communications (DSRC) technology. However, in recent years we have seen vast technological changes and the current mandate requires updating to ensure that the spectrum allocation supports our nation's goal to further enhance automobile safety through connected transportation. Meanwhile, consumer demand for Wi-Fi services continues to grow, and the current model for testing unlicensed sharing capabilities in the 5.9 GHz band has made little progress. This has caused ongoing uncertainty in the band, hindering investment and deployments of safety technologies and hampering the expansion of Wi-Fi services. It is clear that the current timeline and model for testing is outdated and should be reconsidered on an expedited basis.

Therefore, I urge the FCC to move forward, working together with DOT to consider modern approaches that will advance vehicle safety and Wi-Fi in the 5.9 GHz band. I also encourage you to ensure that any new rulemaking will reflect an open and transparent process so that Congress and stakeholders can properly monitor the progress of any further testing and provide appropriate feedback to band plan proposals.

Thank you for your willingness to evaluate how to best utilize the 5.9 GHz band.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Latta



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

November 4, 2019

The Honorable Bob Latta  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2448 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Latta:

Thank you for your letter expressing support for the Federal Communications Commission refreshing the record in the 5.9 GHz proceeding.

To say the least, substantial time has passed since the FCC initially granted Dedicated Short Range Communications (DSRC) vehicle-to-vehicle technology experimentation in this band in the 1990s. DSRC has made little progress since then—its deployment is meager at best, only one automaker currently supports it, and no major models are scheduled to use DSRC in the near future. Indeed, the rest have jettisoned the failed technology of DSRC, focusing their efforts on the development of cellular vehicle-to-everything (C-V2X) automotive safety technologies.

Meanwhile, consumer demand for applications and services that rely on unlicensed spectrum has exploded. The technological standard for unlicensed use of the 5.9 GHz band, called 802.11ac, has long been established. The band below it is already used for Wi-Fi, and the Commission is exploring unlicensed opportunities in the 6 GHz band above it.

It is long past time for rethinking the highest-valued use of this public resource. That is why I support a comprehensive conversation about how to proceed in the context of a notice of proposed rulemaking.

Thank you for sharing your views on this matter. 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 fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part.

Ajit V. Pai