

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 18, 2019

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Received & Inspected

JUN 25 2019

FCC Mailroom

Chairman Ajit Pai
445 12 Street, SW
Washington, DC 20555

RE: Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on the 5.9 Ghz Spectrum Band

Dear Chairman Pai:

We write to express our support for action by the Commission that would initiate a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM) on the 5.9 Ghz spectrum band in the Federal Communications Commission's July agenda.

The 5.9 Ghz band has incredible value and should be put to good use for the benefit of American consumers. Unfortunately, over the past two decades, the spectrum band has not lived up to its promise, which has cost consumers and the larger economy. American spectrum policy, along with technological and economic progress, depend on efficiently using all available resources – including wireless spectrum. The FCC, of which you are Chair, is respected and equipped to make well-reasoned, fact-based decisions surrounding spectrum use. It is time that we not dwell on past failure, but instead look to new ideas that would put the 5.9 Ghz band to work for consumers.

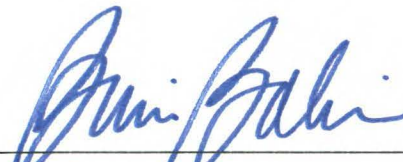
America needs to maintain its technological lead in the world and especially in providing WiFi services. Our country must enable WiFi to provide a seamless, ubiquitous, and highly reliable connectivity across the country. Taking steps today will prepare us for a future with advanced applications, quantum computing, and artificial intelligence. These advances will spur further innovation in telemedicine, education, agriculture, autonomous vehicles, manufacturing and auto-safety, among others. We believe it is reasonable for the FCC to take a "fresh look" at the 5.9 band and should consider using the spectrum for advances in WiFi, but the surest way to disadvantage ourselves and delay these advances and their economic benefit is for the FCC to do nothing and allow 75 MHz of critical mid-band spectrum to remain unused for another twenty years.

The 5.9 Ghz spectrum band belongs to the American people and should be put to use rather than remain virtually vacant. Mr. Chairman, we have waited twenty years for this valuable asset to be put to use, and we support your call for the beginning of a new conversation via a new FNPRM on the 5.9 Ghz band. We are confident that the facts will lead you to the right conclusion and that the opportunity to present fresh ideas will better serve the interest of American consumers.

Respectfully,



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

November 4, 2019

The Honorable Brian Babin
U.S. House of Representatives
316 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Babin:

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

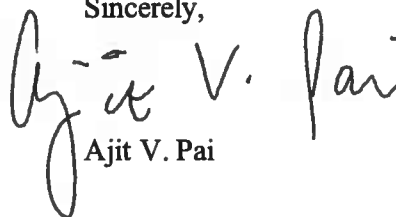
To say the least, substantial time has passed since the FCC initially granted Dedicated Short Range Communications (DSRC) vehicle-to-vehicle technology experimentation in this band in the 1990s. DSRC has made little progress since then—its deployment is meager at best, only one automaker currently supports 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,


Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

November 4, 2019

The Honorable Hank Johnson
U.S. House of Representatives
2240 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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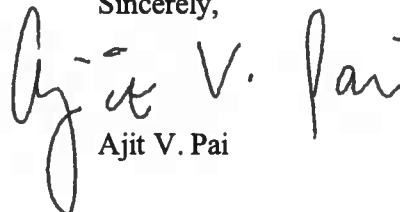
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Ajit V. Pai