

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

June 19, 2019

383

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

Dear Chairman Pai:

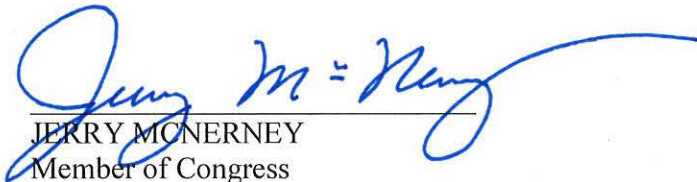
We write to urge you to move forward with a rulemaking proceeding to take a fresh look at the 5.9 GHz band. Given the increasing demands for spectrum, it is crucial that we use this precious and finite resource in an efficient way. Twenty years ago, the 5.9 GHz band was allocated for Dedicated Short-Range Communications, a technology that has yet to be widely adopted. It is important that we re-examine how this band is being used and how to allocate it in a way that meets the demands of our times and best serves the American people.

Today, we are witnessing a growing need for more unlicensed spectrum. Access to unlicensed spectrum has fostered a tremendous amount of innovation and created new opportunities—from smart farming to advancements in the delivery of health care and education. With the proliferation of new Wi-Fi equipped devices coming to market and more than sixty percent (and growing) of mobile traffic being offloaded on to Wi-Fi, we simply do not have enough unlicensed spectrum to keep up with the demand. It is important that we examine how the 5.9 GHz band could help us meet this demand in an efficient way.

Today, we are also witnessing the development of Cellular Vehicle-to-Everything technology and the adoption of lidar, sensors, cameras, along with other technologies to aid autonomous vehicle navigation and safety. We could not agree more that automotive safety is critical, but in addressing this issue, it is important that our nation's spectrum policy takes a modern and holistic approach.

We were pleased to see that last month you stated that, “the time has come for the FCC to take a fresh look at this band. We should open up a rulemaking proceeding, seek comment on the various proposals for the band's future, and use the record that we compile to make a final decision on how the band should be allocated.”<sup>1</sup> We hope that you will move forward soon with this proceeding.

Sincerely,

  
JERRY MCNERNEY  
Member of Congress

  
JOHN SHIMKUS  
Member of Congress

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<sup>1</sup> Remarks of FCC Chairman Ajit Pai, May 14, 2019, available at <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-357456A1.pdf>.



BILLY LONG  
Member of Congress



ANNA G. ESHOO  
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission  
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission  
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission  
The Honorable Geoffrey Starks, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

November 4, 2019

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo  
U.S. House of Representatives  
202 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Eshoo:

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

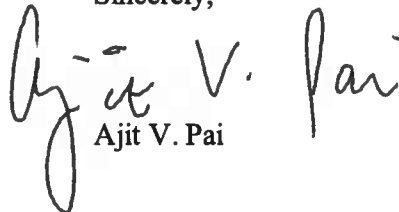
To say the least, substantial time has passed since the FCC initially granted Dedicated Short Range Communications (DSRC) vehicle-to-vehicle technology experimentation in this band in the 1990s. DSRC has made little progress since then—its deployment is meager at best, only one automaker currently supports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



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

November 4, 2019

The Honorable Billy Long  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2454 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Long:

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

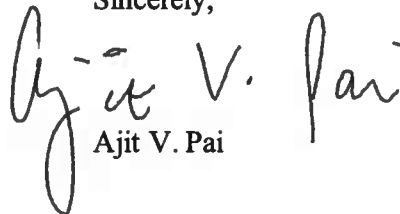
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Ajit V. Pai



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THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

November 4, 2019

The Honorable Jerry McNerney  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2265 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McNerney:

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.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

November 4, 2019

The Honorable John Shimkus  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2217 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Shimkus:

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

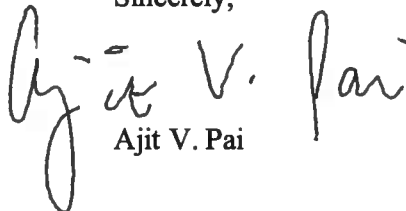
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Ajit V. Pai