

October 28, 2019

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

As the Federal Communications Commission (Commission or FCC) considers its options for the disposition of C-Band spectrum,¹ we write to express our strong preference for a public auction of C-band spectrum rather than a private sale, as some stakeholders have proposed. Given the importance of this spectrum band to 5G and bridging the digital divide, the Commission must fulfill its mandate to ensure that all aspects of the reallocation and transfer of spectrum are done in the public interest. Moreover, a private sale will transfer revenue out of the hands of the American taxpayer, and into the pockets of foreign satellite companies.

As you know, C-Band spectrum has a robust capability to carry large amounts of wireless data relatively far distances, making it valuable spectrum. Pushing more spectrum into the marketplace, including mid-band spectrum such as C-Band, will stimulate the deployment of innovative technologies, including 5G. In addition, reallocating this spectrum for licensed wireless use could help close the digital divide – a priority shared by FCC Commissioners and Members of Congress alike – by making more wireless spectrum available to rural carriers and increasing rural broadband deployment in underserved and unserved communities and to ensure that those using C-Band service today have an alternative of equal or better quality.

Congress was unequivocal in the Communications Act that the Commission should manage commercial spectrum in a way that “includes safeguards to protect the public interest.”² Therefore, in keeping with the Commission’s work on previous spectrum auctions, the Commission should pursue an auction of C-Band that is transparent, that provides accountability, and which is led solely by the Commission. We believe the Commission is the foremost expert in conducting spectrum auctions, has an obligation to put consumers first, and therefore should not cede this authority to private parties. Americans who already lack access to broadband services cannot afford to be disadvantaged by a private spectrum sale that could make the digital divide worse.

¹ Federal Communications Commission, *In the Matter of Expanding Flexible Use of the 3.7 to 4.2 GHz Band*, Order and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, GN Docket No. 18-122, FCC 18-91 (July. 13, 2018), para. 10.

² 47 U.S.C. §309(j)(3)

Thank you for your time and attention to this urgent matter.

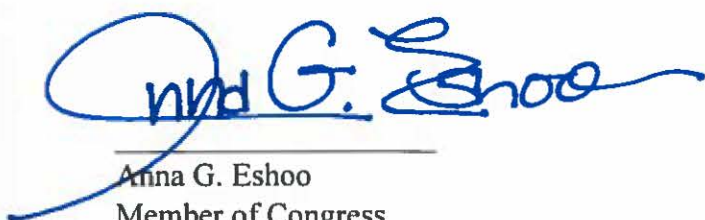
Most gratefully,



Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



David Loeb sack
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



Yvette Clarke
Member of Congress



Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner
The Honorable Geoffrey Starks, Commissioner



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

November 18, 2019

The Honorable G.K. Butterfield
U.S. House of Representatives
2080 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Butterfield:

Thank you for your interest in the Federal Communications Commission's ongoing rulemaking related to spectrum in the 3.7-4.2 GHz band, commonly called the "C-band." C-band spectrum is widely seen as a critical swath of mid-band spectrum that could help drive American leadership in 5G, the next generation of wireless connectivity. This spectrum offers both geographic coverage and the capacity to transmit large amounts of data—a combination that is appealing to entrepreneurs and wireless consumers alike.

I previously announced that I would make a decision on how the FCC should proceed by this fall and outlined four principles that the FCC must advance through this rulemaking. *First*, we must make available a significant amount of C-band spectrum for 5G. *Second*, we must make C-band spectrum available for 5G quickly. *Third*, we must generate revenue for the federal government. And *fourth*, we must protect the services that are currently delivered using the C-band so they can continue to be delivered to the American people.

After much deliberation and a thorough review of the extensive record, I have concluded that the best way to advance these principles is through an auction of 280 megahertz of the C-band conducted by the Federal Communications Commission's excellent staff. With a quarter-century track record of transparent and successful auctions, I am confident that they will conduct a public auction that will afford all parties a fair opportunity to compete for this 5G spectrum, while preserving the availability of the upper 200 megahertz of this band for the continued delivery of programming.

Thank you once again for your interest. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai".
Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

November 18, 2019

The Honorable Tony Cárdenas
U.S. House of Representatives
2438 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Cárdenas:

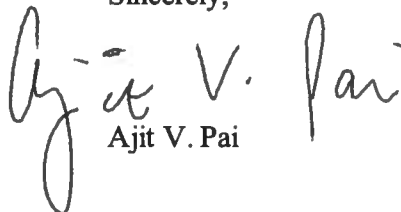
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

November 18, 2019

The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke
U.S. House of Representatives
2058 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Clarke:

Thank you for your interest in the Federal Communications Commission's ongoing rulemaking related to spectrum in the 3.7-4.2 GHz band, commonly called the "C-band." C-band spectrum is widely seen as a critical swath of mid-band spectrum that could help drive American leadership in 5G, the next generation of wireless connectivity. This spectrum offers both geographic coverage and the capacity to transmit large amounts of data—a combination that is appealing to entrepreneurs and wireless consumers alike.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
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November 18, 2019

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

Dear Congresswoman Eshoo:

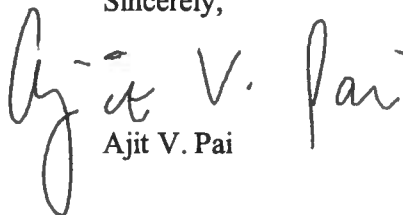
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

November 18, 2019

The Honorable Dave Loebsack
U.S. House of Representatives
1211 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Loebsack:

Thank you for your interest in the Federal Communications Commission's ongoing rulemaking related to spectrum in the 3.7-4.2 GHz band, commonly called the "C-band." C-band spectrum is widely seen as a critical swath of mid-band spectrum that could help drive American leadership in 5G, the next generation of wireless connectivity. This spectrum offers both geographic coverage and the capacity to transmit large amounts of data—a combination that is appealing to entrepreneurs and wireless consumers alike.

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Ajit V. Pai



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WASHINGTON

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November 18, 2019

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

Dear Congressman McNerney:

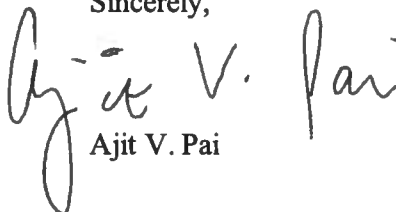
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
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November 18, 2019

The Honorable Tom O'Halleran
U.S. House of Representatives
126 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman O'Halleran:

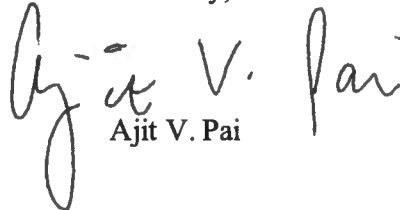
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U.S. House of Representatives
2303 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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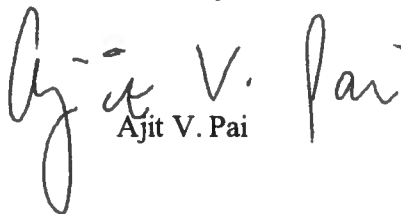
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