

**TOWN OF LEVERETT**  
**Massachusetts 01054**

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June 14, 2016

To: Mr. Dino Flore  
Mr. Satoshi Nagata  
3GPP  
-VIA EMAIL-

**Re: Long Term Evolution Operation in Unlicensed Spectrum Must Not Interfere with Wi-Fi**

Dear Mr. Flore and Mr. Nagata,

I write to you on behalf of Town of Leverett to express our deep concerns regarding the potential harm 3GPP Long Term Evolution (LTE) unlicensed technologies will have on broadband access by impairing existing Wi-Fi investments our town and residents currently rely on.

Leverett remains committed to advancing broadband Internet access via Wi-Fi for our residents and visitors. I have read the letter sent to you by Ms. Maya Wiley on behalf of New York City, and I wholeheartedly agree with the concerns raised. As Ms. Wiley indicated in her letter, "any threat to Wi-Fi is a threat to the very fabric of the city." **Our residents depend on existing Wi-Fi networks as a key way to email, stream music and movies, make voice and video calls, access city services, pay utility and property tax bills, apply for jobs, book restaurant reservations and perform hundreds of other activities vital to our local economy.**

Leverett has, and will continue to aggressively invest in high speed internet and Wi-Fi as a means of providing affordable Internet access to all our residents, including in schools, libraries and public spaces. These important projects for our communities include:

- Leverett citizens authorized and constructed a fiber to the home system that now brings high speed internet to every household in town. Leverett is the first rural western Massachusetts municipality to achieve this.
- The Leverett Elementary School, Library, Town Hall, Leverett Coop all utilize the fiber system to generate a high speed public Wi-Fi signal for the public, students, employees and patrons at these facilities.

I am not only concerned about the negative impact that unlicensed LTE technologies could have on Leverett's public investments, but also the harm to our residents, who have made significant private investments in multiple devices that rely on Wi-Fi in their homes and businesses. Nationwide surveys show that, on average, seven in ten U.S. households have Wi-Fi Internet connections. On average, these households have nearly a dozen Wi-Fi enabled devices each!

While I am not a wireless expert, I understand the two industry organizations most intimately involved in the development and improvement of Wi-Fi, IEEE and Wi-Fi Alliance, have submitted letters to you outlining specific concerns regarding how your unlicensed LTE technology decisions could impact Wi-Fi. I ask that 3GPP work closely and carefully with the Wi-Fi Alliance and IEEE to address those concerns as you move forward in your standardization work.

Finally, I believe that it is imperative that any version of LTE operating in the unlicensed frequency bands, including the License Assisted Access (LAA) standard under development in 3GPP, be specifically designed to operate without creating harm or disrupting existing Wi-Fi devices. I concur with New York City that any substantial loss of coverage area for a Wi-Fi hotspot could diminish the broadband access of our residents and visitors, while also degrading the value of millions of dollars of public and private investment. Additionally, any reduction in Wi-Fi performance that could undermine real-time services like innovative voice and video applications, should not be tolerated.

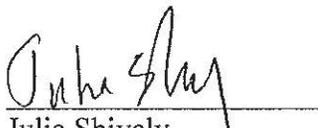
If there is a chance unlicensed LTE could harm the investments made by the town and our residents, I urge you to fix the technology before attempting to deploy it here. Failure to protect existing Wi-Fi networks would impose great harm and undermine the free and open nature of sharing the public airwaves that has contributed so richly to our residents' quality of life thus far.

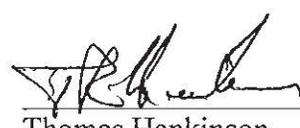
Thank you for your thoughtful consideration. I look forward to your response and feedback as I continue to track the progress of this vitally important issue.

Sincerely,

Leverett Selectboard:

  
Peter d'Errico

  
Julia Shively

  
Thomas Hankinson

cc: Messrs. Julius Knapp, Edward Smith, Jonathan Wilkins, Federal Communications Commission  
Mr. Joern Krause, 3GPP TSG RAN Secretary  
Ms. Susanna Kooistra, 3GPP Liaison Coordinator  
Mr. Edgar Figueroa, Wi-Fi Alliance  
Mr. Paul Nikolich, Chair IEEE 802 LAN/MAN Standards Committee  
Ms. Maya Wiley, Counsel to the Mayor of New York City