

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

September 10, 2014

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The Honorable Tom Wheeler, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

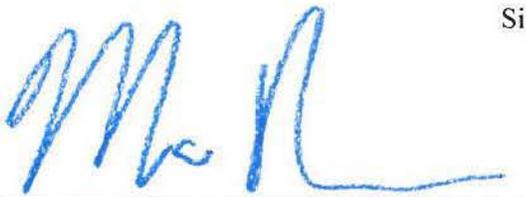
As the sponsors of the Wi-Fi Innovation Act, we write to express our strong support for freeing up underutilized spectrum to maximize unlicensed use in the upper 5 GHz band. The demand for wireless spectrum is growing exponentially, and Congress and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) must work together with industry to help meet this demand. Increased use of unlicensed technologies and better utilization of spectrum are vital to alleviating the spectrum crunch, expanding Wi-Fi use, and promoting innovation. Unlicensed spectrum and Wi-Fi can also help improve broadband access and ensure ubiquitous connectivity.

As you know, the upper 5GHz band is currently allocated for satellite services and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). Satellite operators are utilizing the band to provide global communications, and the automobile industry has conducted valuable research and development to improve highway safety through the use of connected vehicles and related technologies. In order to maximize spectrum use in the band, the FCC must determine that unlicensed spectrum use would not cause harmful interference to these incumbent systems. We have joined together to introduce the Wi-Fi Innovation Act because this bipartisan, bicameral legislation directs the FCC to determine the extent to which unlicensed spectrum can be shared and utilized in increasingly innovative ways to benefit consumers and our economy, while recognizing the needs of incumbent users.

The upper 5 GHz band represents a unique opportunity to maximize the use of a valuable, underutilized resource. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is moving forward with a rulemaking on vehicle-to-vehicle devices in new light vehicles and is seeking public input on sharing the upper 5 GHz band, among other considerations. The FCC must seize this opportunity to conduct testing and find solutions to interference now. We urge the FCC to proceed expeditiously with collaborative testing to determine if unlicensed devices can coexist with ITS and incumbent satellite systems. We are confident the FCC can successfully resolve any potential interference issues through thorough analysis and testing, and we hope this process will lead to rules and standards that unleash innovation and expand Wi-Fi while protecting incumbent systems.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to working with you to address the spectrum crunch and expand Wi-Fi technology.

Sincerely,



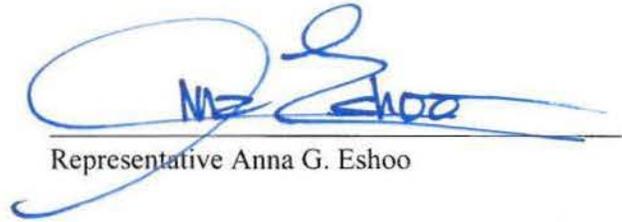
Senator Marco Rubio



Senator Cory A. Booker



Representative Bob Latta



Representative Anna G. Eshoo



Representative Darrell Issa



Representative Doris Matsui