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ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927

Minority (202) 225-3641

July 14, 2016

The Honorable Tom Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

U.S. leadership in the global mobile ecosystem has delivered tremendous innovation for American consumers and the U.S. economy. Today, 54 percent of all mobile subscribers in North America are on 4G LTE networks, compared to just 24 percent in Western Europe and Asia Pacific, and Americans more than doubled their mobile data usage from 2014 to 2015. Mobile broadband is becoming increasingly integrated in everyday life and business – and the next generation of wireless, 5G, is a game-changing technology. We urge the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to take action this summer so that the United States can maintain its global mobile leadership as the world moves to 5G.

As an initial matter, we commend you for announcing that the FCC will take action in the *Spectrum Frontiers* proceeding this July. Other nations, including Japan and South Korea, are already committed to mining higher frequency bands like these as they vie to lead on 5G. In the U.S., these bands will pave the way for investment and innovation in both licensed and unlicensed offerings, providing consumers with much faster and more responsive broadband, and delivering connectivity to many more devices included in the developing Internet of Things market.

The FCC should adopt *Spectrum Frontier* service rules that will enable rapid investment and innovation in these bands. Established rules of the road, for example, the licensing approach adopted in advance of the AWS-3 auction that garnered more than \$40 billion in revenue, offer clarity with respect to licensed rights. At the same time, the FCC should make sure that existing services in these bands including satellites can continue to operate as they do today, and that there is a path for further deployment by incumbent operators. We also share the FCC's concerns with cybersecurity as new technologies develop, and urge the agency to continue to

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work through bodies like the Communications Security, Reliability and Interoperability Council (CSRIC) and standards groups to ensure 5G development incorporates security-by-design principles.

Finally, for 5G to be a success, the FCC must also take concrete steps toward more common-sense siting policies. 5G will involve more densified wireless networks, with smaller antennas that have a more limited physical presence and lesser impact. Siting policy should account for these small cell deployments. The FCC, therefore, should promptly complete its nationwide programmatic agreement proceeding to eliminate unnecessary review processes for collocating small wireless antennas.

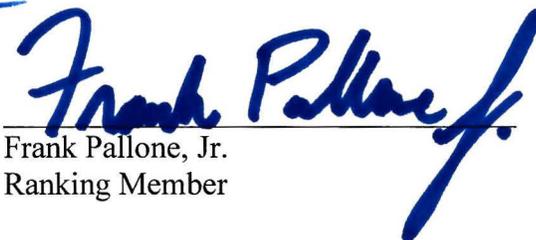
Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to prompt action to advance the interests of 5G and U.S. consumers and business.

Sincerely,



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Fred Upton  
Chairman



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Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Ranking Member