

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN AJIT PAI**

Re: *Expanding Flexible Use in Mid-Band Spectrum Between 3.7 and 24 GHz*, GN Docket No. 17-183

Usually, we don't think of the "middle" as the best place to be. The middle seat. Middle-child syndrome. The middleman. And, as anyone who has seen *Reservoir Dogs* knows, one doesn't want to be "Stuck in the Middle with You."

However, that calculus changes when we're talking about spectrum. That's why the FCC is looking to free up mid-band spectrum for wireless innovation. As the world goes wireless, as consumers rely ever more heavily on their mobile devices, we need to keep up—and that means in part looking at spectrum bands "in the middle," where the FCC historically hasn't focused.

In addition to asking more general questions about the potential uses of mid-range spectrum, this proceeding specifically asks about the C band (3.7–4.2 GHz and 5.925–6.425 GHz) and the upper 6 GHz band (6.425–7.125 GHz). We want to know how existing rules can be modified to promote additional access to these "middle" bands. We want to hear whether and how these bands can enable wireless broadband services and economic growth.

This *Notice of Inquiry* is just the beginning of our efforts to free up more mid-band spectrum for flexible wireless use. We aim to close the mobile digital divide so that American consumers, especially in rural areas, won't be eternally "stuck in the middle" of dead or spotty wireless service zones. And along the way, we hope to boost investment, job creation, and our nation's global competitiveness.

There was nothing middling about the team effort from the FCC staff on this item. Thank you to all those who pitched in. From the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau: Stephen Buenzow, Peter Daronco, Jessica Greffenius, Nese Guendelsberger, Joyce Jones, Roger Noel, Matthew Pearl, Paul Powell, Blaise Scinto, Dana Shaffer, Don Stockdale, Joel Taubenblatt, and Brian Wondrack. From the Office of Engineering and Technology: Michael Ha, Julius Knapp, Nicholas Oros, Jamison Prime, and Ron Repasi. From the International Bureau: Jennifer Gilsean, Michael Mullinix, Robert Nelson, Jim Schlichting, and Thomas Sullivan. From the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau: David Furth and Renee Roland. From the Enforcement Bureau: Jeremy Marcus. From the Media Bureau: Thomas Horan. And from the Office of General Counsel: Deborah Broderson and David Horowitz.