

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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August 24, 2017

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

Dear Chairman Pai:

As bipartisan leaders of the Congressional Spectrum Caucus, we write to commend you for your efforts toward making additional spectrum available for commercial use, which will continue to fuel the investment that has made our country a world leader in wireless innovation. We applaud the success of the recent Incentive Auction and other auctions in recent years that have helped us to keep pace with increasing data needs, but we also agree that there's an urgent need to continue identifying more spectrum to develop a solid foundation for 5G deployment.

As the global race for 5G leadership tightens, the nations which allocate the most suitable spectrum for next-generation wireless services and Internet of Things (IoT) applications will see the greatest wireless infrastructure development, job creation, and innovation. Hand in hand with reallocation, encouraging spectral efficiency will also be an important component for the wireless ecosystem. One idea that has been pending before the Commission since December 2015 for getting the most out of our airwaves is using the same frequencies in an integrated satellite-terrestrial network.

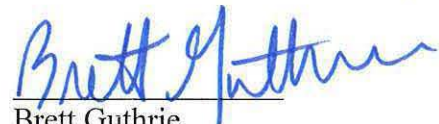
Regarding this specific proposal, it is our understanding that unlocking certain L-band spectrum could support a first-of-its-kind advanced satellite-terrestrial network designed to provide mission-critical connectivity for 5G and IoT applications. Among many other uses, this type of network could provide significant benefits to our nation's core infrastructure industries, including transportation, energy, and public safety. For example, it could allow utilities to inspect power lines in hard-to-reach rural areas or enable railroads to transmit data generated by numerous sensors and cameras in real-time for a host of public safety applications.

In the interest of spurring broader innovation and creative thinking regarding spectrum use, we respectfully urge you to provide full and fair consideration of the pending license modification application related to terrestrial service in the L-band and come to a final decision as expeditiously as possible. We are encouraged by your commitment to providing final decisions regarding pending orders at the Commission within a reasonable time frame, and look forward to continuing to work together on addressing our nation's spectrum needs.

Sincerely,



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Brett Guthrie
Member of Congress