

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 11, 2018

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

Dear Chairman Pai:

As co-chairs of the Congressional Spectrum Caucus, we applaud the Federal Communication Commission's (Commission) continued focus on spectrum allocation. As the demand on wireless broadband networks continues to grow, enabling the technologies of the Internet of Things and next generation broadband services like 5G will be critical for our economy and our global competitiveness. The success of these networks – and ensuring consumers have access to the most advanced technology available – will depend on an adequate supply of spectrum.

As you know, both licensed and unlicensed spectrum are a vital part of the spectrum ecosystem. Low-, mid-, and high-bands will be necessary for the full deployment of next generation spectrum-based services. The propagation characteristics of mid-band spectrum make it particularly favorable for a variety of services that can utilize the coverage and capacity requirements of these networks. To that end, we commend the Commission for your plans to move to a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on adding a mobile allocation for licensed services in the 3.7 to 4.2 GHz band. Expanded terrestrial wireless access in this band – while including any necessary protections for incumbent users – has the potential to make this spectrum a core mid-range band for next generation wireless broadband networks including 5G and other innovations.

Your 2017 Mid-Band Notice of Inquiry (NOI) appropriately focused on the importance of additional mid-band spectrum allocations for both licensed and unlicensed services and recognized the need to address them together. We understand that you will move to an NPRM on opening the 5.925-6.425 and 6.425-7.125 GHz bands (collectively, the “6 GHz band”) for unlicensed use in the fall. As you address the demand for mid-band spectrum, we would urge you to take action on the 6 GHz band NPRM expeditiously while also carefully considering the needs of incumbent and critical infrastructure networks. Importantly, the NPRM process will allow all stakeholders to provide valuable input on the ex ante requirements necessary to protect incumbents, and give opportunity to evaluate proposals for interference protection, technical coexistence between users, and how to reliably resolve potential interference should it occur.

The need for licensed and unlicensed spectrum has never been greater. We applaud your current efforts toward a spectrum policy that protects the services offered by incumbent users and allocates additional spectrum for wireless broadband services, so we look forward to seeing further action in the coming months.

Sincerely,



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Brett Guthrie
Member of Congress

cc: Commissioner Mike O’Rielly
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner Brendan Carr