



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

April 2, 2019

The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-405 The Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Visclosky:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's 24 GHz auction (Auction 102). Auction 102 began on March 14 and is ongoing with more than \$1.7 billion in gross proceeds so far. This auction will make available 700 megahertz of spectrum in the 24.25-24.45 GHz and 24.75-25.25 GHz bands for commercial 5G services and applications. I share the support you expressed in your letter for United States leadership in the deployment of 5G, the next generation of wireless connectivity, and the auction of 24 GHz spectrum is critical to that leadership.

The FCC proposed to open up the 24 GHz band for mobile terrestrial use in 2016 and adopted the service rules for the 24 GHz band in 2017. In developing these rules, we followed the standard interagency coordination process. On April 26, 2018, in my written testimony before the Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, I indicated that we planned to move ahead with auctioning the 24 GHz band soon. And then, on August 3, 2018, the Commission adopted the final procedures for Auction 102. In short, the service rules for the 24 GHz band and the procedures for Auction 102 have been public for a long time and were developed through a notice-and-comment process. Moreover, the Commission devoted substantial funds and staff resources to prepare for this auction.

Based on the record compiled by the Commission in a notice-and-comment rulemaking, the FCC concluded that these rules would protect the 23.6-24 GHz band from interference. The rules are consistent with previous Commission actions in the same range of spectrum. In 2000, the FCC established rules for operation in the 24.25-24.45 GHz and 25.05-25.25 GHz bands for a high-density fixed and point-to-multipoint wireless broadband service that was later auctioned in 2004 with the same out-of-band emission limits to protect passive services from harmful interference. Below 23.6 GHz, similar out-of-band emission limits were established to protect passive service operations from high-powered fixed service operations. Moreover, federal operations in the spectrum adjacent to the passive service allocation must comply with the same non-federal protection limits, as adopted in the NTIA manual. Since these rules were adopted, we have not been presented with any evidence of harmful interference from these existing services, or a validated study suggesting that operations in accordance with these rules would adversely affect use of the 23.6-24 GHz allocation, including for weather forecasting. The

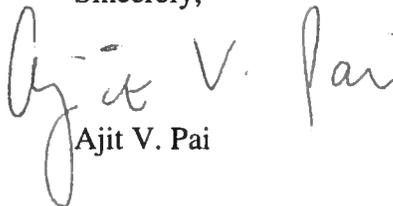
Commission's decisions with respect to spectrum have been and will continue to be based on sound science rather than exaggerated and unverified last-minute assertions.

For these reasons, among others, I did not believe that the Commission should delay the March 14 auction the day before it was to commence. Such a delay would not have been fair to those bidders that had prepared to participate in the auction. Such a delay would have sent a message that the United States was not fully committed to leading the world in 5G. And most important, such a delay would have been unjustified.

Your letter also requested a broad range of material and information, much of which is readily available in the public record of the proceeding. We have a transparent rulemaking process and maintain documents in our online Electronic Comment Filing System. Also, each auction has its individual webpage; in this case, that page is located at <https://www.fcc.gov/auction/102>. I have directed my staff to assist yours in accessing this material online for review and to provide any other assistance that you need related to the Commission's spectrum work.

I stand ready to testify concerning these decisions at the April 3 hearing, and I am quite confident that the FCC has complied with all appropriate processes related to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Ajit" is written with a large, sweeping initial "A". The last name "Pai" is written with a large, sweeping initial "P". The middle name "V." is written in a smaller, simpler font between the first and last names.

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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April 2, 2019

The Honorable Jose E. Serrano  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-310 The Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Serrano:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's 24 GHz auction (Auction 102). Auction 102 began on March 14 and is ongoing with more than \$1.7 billion in gross proceeds so far. This auction will make available 700 megahertz of spectrum in the 24.25-24.45 GHz and 24.75-25.25 GHz bands for commercial 5G services and applications. I share the support you expressed in your letter for United States leadership in the deployment of 5G, the next generation of wireless connectivity, and the auction of 24 GHz spectrum is critical to that leadership.

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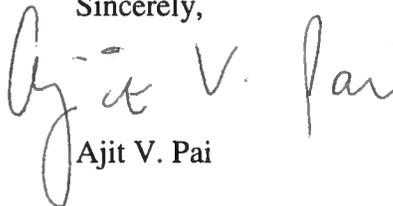
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Ajit V. Pai



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April 2, 2019

The Honorable Mike Quigley  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2000 Rayburn House Office Building (G Floor)  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Quigley:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's 24 GHz auction (Auction 102). Auction 102 began on March 14 and is ongoing with more than \$1.7 billion in gross proceeds so far. This auction will make available 700 megahertz of spectrum in the 24.25-24.45 GHz and 24.75-25.25 GHz bands for commercial 5G services and applications. I share the support you expressed in your letter for United States leadership in the deployment of 5G, the next generation of wireless connectivity, and the auction of 24 GHz spectrum is critical to that leadership.

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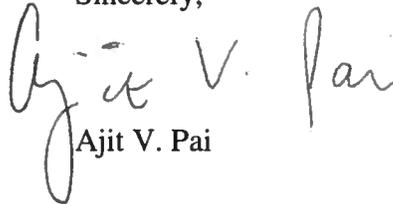
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Ajit V. Pai