

**REMARKS OF FCC CHAIRMAN AJIT PAI
AT THE WHITE HOUSE**

WASHINGTON, DC

APRIL 12, 2019

Thank you, Mr. President, for your compelling vision of U.S. leadership in 5G. I also want to thank Larry Kudlow, Director of the National Economic Council, for your steadfast support of this vision.

Mr. President, as you observed, America must win the race to 5G, the next generation of wireless connectivity. This matters for two key reasons.

The first is national competitiveness. We want the good-paying jobs that develop and deploy 5G technologies to be created here. We want these technologies to give our economy a leg up as we compete against the rest of the world.

The second reason U.S. leadership matters is that 5G will improve Americans' lives in so many ways. From precision agriculture to smart transportation networks to telemedicine and more, we want Americans to be the first to benefit from this new digital revolution, while protecting our innovators and citizens. And we don't want rural Americans to be left behind.

Mr. President, that's why I'm pleased to report that America is now well-positioned to win the race to fast, secure, and reliable 5G. And don't just take my word for it. In February, ABI Research stated, "it is the United States who will win the 5G race in the short term."

That same month, Cisco projected that in three years, 5G would be more than twice as prevalent in North America as in Asia. Last week, CTIA reported that "America leads the world with the most commercial 5G deployments of any nation." And on Tuesday, it was reported that 5G-related job listings increased 12% in just the *past three weeks*, according to data from an online job search service.

Today, 5G is a success story—an *American* success story.

How are we getting the job done? As the lead agency on 5G, the FCC is pursuing a three-part strategy called the 5G FAST Plan. First, we're freeing up spectrum, the invisible airwaves that carry wireless traffic. We finished our first 5G spectrum auction in January, and we're holding a second right now that's already generated almost \$2 billion in bids.

Second, we're making it easier to install wireless infrastructure. 5G will rely heavily on a web of small antennas. But when I came into office, regulations designed for tall towers threatened to strangle our 5G future in red tape. We've eliminated these rules, because infrastructure the size of a pizza box shouldn't have to jump through the same regulatory hoops as a 200-foot tower.

Third, we've taken action to encourage the deployment of optical fiber. That's because 5G isn't just about wireless. We'll also need strong fiber networks to carry traffic once it goes from the air to the ground. We've done a lot to make that happen, including ending heavy-handed regulations imposed by the prior Administration. Here too, we're getting results. Last year, fiber was deployed to more new locations than in any year before.

But in the race to 5G, our early success is still—early. We still need to do more. And we will. Today, I'm announcing two new steps the FCC will take to build on our momentum.

First, the FCC intends to start its third 5G spectrum auction on December 10 of this year. This will be the largest spectrum auction in our nation's history. We'll be selling 3,400 megahertz in three different bands. For those who aren't wireless experts, that's a *lot* of spectrum.

Second, to help build the infrastructure of the future, the FCC aims to create a new \$20.4 billion Rural Digital Opportunity Fund at the FCC. This money will extend high-speed broadband to up to four million homes and small businesses in rural America. These next-generation networks will bring greater economic opportunity to America's Heartland and will help support future 5G technologies.

In closing, thank you again, Mr. President, for your leadership on 5G. Your White House has advanced your vision in many ways, from international treaty negotiations to much-needed regulatory reforms. I appreciate all of these efforts. And in the same spirit, this FCC will help build a great and lasting legacy of American success on 5G.