



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

April 29, 2019

The Honorable John Kennedy  
United States Senate  
416 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kennedy:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Commission's proposed rulemaking related to unlicensed use of the 5.925-7.125 GHz (6 GHz) band. I agree that protecting incumbent users from interference is an important consideration. That is why the FCC suggested allowing unlicensed devices to operate in the 6 GHz band only in locations and in frequencies where they would not cause harmful interference to incumbents.

As an initial matter, unlicensed operations relying on Wi-Fi and other technical standards have become highly popular among consumers seeking to connect wirelessly to the Internet using countless devices—and have become a critical component of the mobile wireless ecosystem. The Commission's October 2018 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking proposed allowing unlicensed use of the 6 GHz band while ensuring that the licensed services operating in the spectrum would continue to thrive. Expanding use of this spectrum will advance the Commission's efforts to make broadband connectivity available to all Americans, especially those in rural and underserved areas.

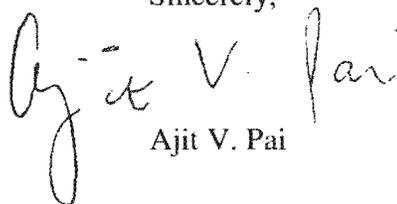
In order to minimize any potential harmful interference, we proposed rules for two types of unlicensed devices tailored to protect incumbent services that operate in distinct parts of the 6 GHz band. In the 5.925-6.425 GHz and 6.525-6.875 GHz sub-bands, unlicensed devices would only be allowed to transmit under the control of an automated frequency control (AFC) system. These frequencies are heavily used by point-to-point microwave links (such as oil rigs and utilities) and some fixed-satellite systems. The AFC system would identify frequencies on which unlicensed devices could operate without causing harmful interference to fixed point-to-point microwave receivers.

In the remainder of the 6 GHz band—that is, the 6.425-6.525 GHz and 6.875-7.125 GHz sub-bands—unlicensed devices would be restricted to indoor use and would operate at lower power, without an AFC system. These frequencies are used for mobile services, such as the Broadcast Auxiliary Service and Cable Television Relay Service, as well as fixed-satellite services. Because technical aspects of these mobile services make the use of an AFC system impractical, the FCC has proposed a combination of lower-power and indoor operations, which would protect licensed services operating on these frequencies from harmful interference.

Page 2—The Honorable John Kennedy

I appreciate your sharing your views on this proceeding and can assure you that as we examine the record, we will take those views into account. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Ajit V. Pai