

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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April 30, 2019

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

RE: Protecting Incumbents from harmful interference in the 6 GHz band, ET Docket No. 18-295

Dear Chairman Pai:

As the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) solicits comments on its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking which would allow unlicensed spectrum sharing in the 6 GHz band, we urge you to ensure that incumbent license holders, especially those critical infrastructure owners and operators which use the band for mission-critical communications, are protected from the harmful interference that could be caused by unlicensed spectrum sharing. Over the past few months, we have heard from our electric and water utilities about the proposed rulemaking and the detrimental impact interference from new unlicensed users could have on the provisioning of reliable utility services. Given the importance of utility services for our economic and national security, we encourage the Commission to carefully craft technical specifications to ensure the adequate protection of utilities and other critical infrastructure owners and operators' communications networks from harmful interference.

Electric and water utilities use the 6GHz band for their mission critical communications networks, including routine reliability, emergency response, storm restoration, and general situation awareness. The 6GHz band provides utilities and other critical infrastructure industries (CII) with high-speed, long distance wireless communications required for these essential services. The 6 GHz band is uniquely suited to deliver the long-distance, low latency communications utilities and other critical infrastructure industries need. Interference on a utility's communication network reduces their ability to respond to problems or abnormalities within their service territory, reducing their situational awareness and potentially compromising utility reliability. Interference to these mission critical communications systems would pose an unacceptable risk.

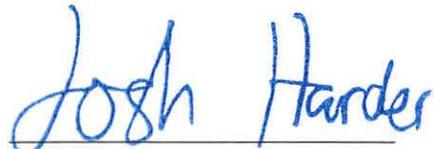
We are well aware that our nation's need for spectrum is growing as the number of wireless networks and devices proliferate, and we appreciate the Commission's continued efforts to ensure the efficient and effective use of spectrum. Commercial wireless users have multiple spectrum options for their service, while, utilities and other users in the 6 GHz band will have few if any other bands should they be forced to relocate. We urge the FCC to carefully consider how best to implement an automated frequency coordination (AFC) system to ensure that it performs effectively and protects important incumbent operations.

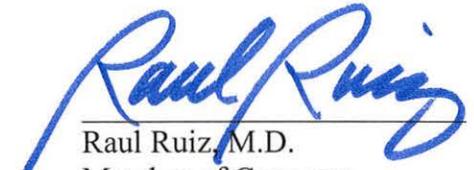
Given the importance of essential energy and water services to our nation's wellbeing, we encourage you to consider how this proposal could impact the critical infrastructure industries who rely on the 6 GHz band for their vital communications network's and ensure adequate protection from harmful interference.

Sincerely,


Jim Costa
Member of Congress


Ken Calvert
Member of Congress


Josh Harder
Member of Congress


Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress


Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress


Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress

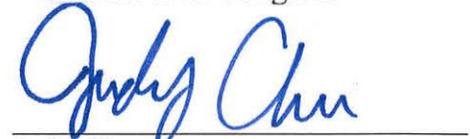

TJ Cox
Member of Congress


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