

ROGER WICKER, MISSISSIPPI  
ROY BLUNT, MISSOURI  
TED CRUZ, TEXAS  
DEB FISCHER, NEBRASKA  
JERRY MORAN, KANSAS  
DAN SULLIVAN, ALASKA  
DEAN HELLER, NEVADA  
JAMES INHOFE, OKLAHOMA  
MIKE LEE, UTAH  
RON JOHNSON, WISCONSIN  
SHELLEY MOORE CARPIS, WEST VIRGINIA  
CORY GARDNER, COLORADO  
TODD YOUNG, INDIANA

BILL NELSON, FLORIDA  
MARIA CANTWELL, WASHINGTON  
AMY KLOBUCHAR, MINNESOTA  
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, CONNECTICUT  
BRIAN SCHATZ, HAWAII  
EDWARD MARKEY, MASSACHUSETTS  
TOM UDALL, NEW MEXICO  
GARY PETERS, MICHIGAN  
TAMMY BALDWIN, WISCONSIN  
TAMMY DUCKWORTH, ILLINOIS  
MAGGIE HASSAN, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO, NEVADA  
JON TESTER, MONTANA

NICK ROSSI, STAFF DIRECTOR  
KIM UPSKY, DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,  
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

WEBSITE: <http://commerce.senate.gov>

274

May 10, 2019

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Southwest  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

American leadership in Fifth Generation telecommunications technology (5G) is critical for the economic well-being and security of America. Winning the race to 5G requires world-leading technology, access to spectrum on which 5G systems will operate, and the ability to deploy services to the American people, including Americans in rural areas.

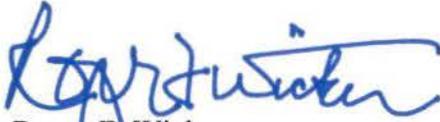
While American companies and those of other western nations are leading the way on technology, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) plays a crucial role with regard to spectrum and deployment. Under your leadership, the FCC has made enormous progress in addressing both of these issues. In particular, the FCC has streamlined deployment and moved prudently but with great speed to bring millimeter wave spectrum to market, completing successful auctions for spectrum in the 24 GHz and 28 GHz bands, and preparing for auctions in the 37 GHz, 39 GHz, and 47 GHz bands.

As the Commission has noted, mid-band spectrum offers favorable signal range and indoor penetration combined with increased capacity that comes from frequency reuse; this makes mid-band spectrum particularly important for the initial deployment of 5G. This is especially the case in America's rural areas, where population density makes deployment of millimeter wave spectrum less economical than in urban areas. Currently, the United States lags far behind our competitors in the availability of mid-band spectrum for 5G. While Citizens Band Radio Service will make 70 MHz of licensed spectrum available under a novel licensing scheme, much more is needed.

In MOBILE NOW Congress directed the FCC to evaluate commercial wireless use of spectrum in the 3.7 GHz to 4.2 GHz band, and the Commission has begun the process. In the year since passage of that law, the need for action has become even more acute. It has been estimated that accelerating infrastructure deployment by one year could drive an additional \$100 billion in economic impact in the next three years. Therefore, we urge the Commission to act quickly to make spectrum in the 3.7 GHz to 4.2 GHz band available for 5G.

Your action to speed up the availability of mid-band spectrum for 5G will play a crucial role in determining whether the American people will reap the full benefits of next-generation technology, and whether the United States will win the massive economic benefits associated with leading the world in 5G. Thank you for your attention to this matter and your continued commitment to achieving U.S. global leadership in 5G.

Sincerely,



Roger F. Wicker  
CHAIRMAN  
Committee on Commerce,  
Science, and Transportation



John Thune  
CHAIRMAN  
Subcommittee on  
Communications,  
Technology, Innovation, and  
the Internet

Cc: Hon. Maria Cantwell  
Ranking Member, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation