

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 25, 2019

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

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Dear Chairman Pai:

As the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) considers how to repurpose the 3.7-4.2 GHz spectrum band (C-Band) for 5G wireless use, we respectfully urge the Commission to adopt an approach that will reallocate as much spectrum possible through an open, transparent FCC-led public auction that clears equal amounts of this spectrum in urban and rural areas to the extent technically feasible. In addition to providing critical mid-band spectrum for 5G services, this approach will ensure rural residents in Montana, and across the country, will receive the benefits of new 5G services and applications as efficiently and quickly as possible.


In order to continue to lead the world in 5G deployment we need to clear as much spectrum as possible in a public auction. However, we recognize that cable operators, broadcasters, and programmers make extensive use of the C-Band today to distribute and receive programming and it is important that their ability to reach their consumers is uninterrupted and maintained. Further, the revenue generated by a public auction could be used to expand fiber for program delivery and create funds reimbursing incumbent users who transition to different bands or different delivery methods to service their communities. An FCC-led public auction provides the necessary assurances to all interested parties that the relevant decisions and determinations regarding the assignment of 5G licenses in the C-Band will be conducted through a traditional public process that offers transparency and equal opportunity. This approach stands in stark contrast to the proposals limiting public involvement and depriving Montana taxpayers from receiving any benefit for the use of these frequencies.

The C-Band is critical to our winning the race to 5G and providing our economy with a robust connectivity infrastructure that meets the needs of subsequent generations. In order to accomplish those goals, the Commission must adopt a framework that clears the maximum amount of spectrum in an open and transparent process that benefits all Americans, provides equal considerations for urban and rural communities, including those in places like Montana which we are blessed to represent. Such an approach provides the best and most effective path towards the expeditious and nationwide deployment of 5G.

We appreciate your attention to this important matter.


Greg Gianforte
Member of Congress

Sincerely,


Steve Daines
United States Senator