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DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY
REPUBLICAN LEADER

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER
PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3505

June 20, 2019

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

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Chairman Pai and Secretary Chao,

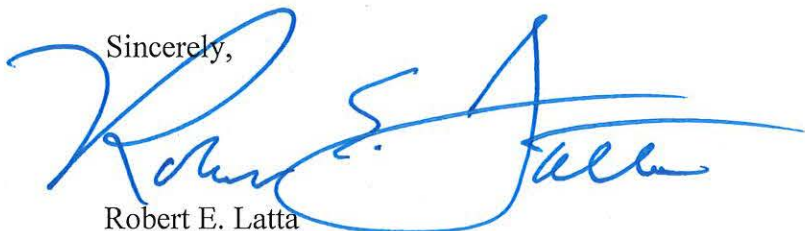
I write to thank you for your continued interest in advancing automobile safety and wireless innovation in the 5.9 GHz band. I have long recognized the value of this spectrum and hold the position that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) should work with the Department of Transportation (DOT) and other interested stakeholders to determine the most efficient use of this band. The expertise from both agencies is important to this ongoing discussion.

In 1999, the FCC allocated 75 MHz of mid-band spectrum to pave the way for connected cars using dedicated short-range communications (DSRC) technology. However, in recent years we have seen vast technological changes and the current mandate requires updating to ensure that the spectrum allocation supports our nation's goal to further enhance automobile safety through connected transportation. Meanwhile, consumer demand for Wi-Fi services continues to grow, and the current model for testing unlicensed sharing capabilities in the 5.9 GHz band has made little progress. This has caused ongoing uncertainty in the band, hindering investment and deployments of safety technologies and hampering the expansion of Wi-Fi services. It is clear that the current timeline and model for testing is outdated and should be reconsidered on an expedited basis.

Therefore, I urge the FCC to move forward, working together with DOT to consider modern approaches that will advance vehicle safety and Wi-Fi in the 5.9 GHz band. I also encourage you to ensure that any new rulemaking will reflect an open and transparent process so that Congress and stakeholders can properly monitor the progress of any further testing and provide appropriate feedback to band plan proposals.

Thank you for your willingness to evaluate how to best utilize the 5.9 GHz band.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Latta