

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 19, 2019

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The Honorable Ajit V. Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

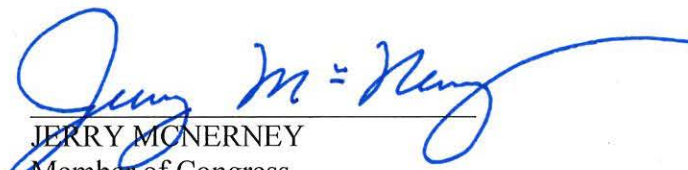
We write to urge you to move forward with a rulemaking proceeding to take a fresh look at the 5.9 GHz band. Given the increasing demands for spectrum, it is crucial that we use this precious and finite resource in an efficient way. Twenty years ago, the 5.9 GHz band was allocated for Dedicated Short-Range Communications, a technology that has yet to be widely adopted. It is important that we re-examine how this band is being used and how to allocate it in a way that meets the demands of our times and best serves the American people.

Today, we are witnessing a growing need for more unlicensed spectrum. Access to unlicensed spectrum has fostered a tremendous amount of innovation and created new opportunities—from smart farming to advancements in the delivery of health care and education. With the proliferation of new Wi-Fi equipped devices coming to market and more than sixty percent (and growing) of mobile traffic being offloaded on to Wi-Fi, we simply do not have enough unlicensed spectrum to keep up with the demand. It is important that we examine how the 5.9 GHz band could help us meet this demand in an efficient way.

Today, we are also witnessing the development of Cellular Vehicle-to-Everything technology and the adoption of lidar, sensors, cameras, along with other technologies to aid autonomous vehicle navigation and safety. We could not agree more that automotive safety is critical, but in addressing this issue, it is important that our nation's spectrum policy takes a modern and holistic approach.

We were pleased to see that last month you stated that, “the time has come for the FCC to take a fresh look at this band. We should open up a rulemaking proceeding, seek comment on the various proposals for the band's future, and use the record that we compile to make a final decision on how the band should be allocated.”¹ We hope that you will move forward soon with this proceeding.

Sincerely,

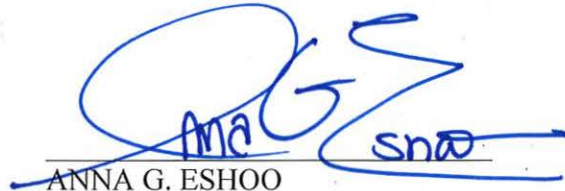

JERRY MCNERNEY
Member of Congress


JOHN SHIMKUS
Member of Congress

¹ Remarks of FCC Chairman Ajit Pai, May 14, 2019, available at <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-357456A1.pdf>.



BILLY LONG
Member of Congress



ANNA G. ESHOO
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Michael O’Rielly, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission
The Honorable Geoffrey Starks, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission