



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

November 4, 2019

The Honorable Grace F. Napolitano
U.S. House of Representatives
1610 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Napolitano:

Thank you for your letter expressing support for the Federal Communications Commission moving forward in the 5.9 GHz proceeding.

To say the least, substantial time has passed since the FCC initially granted Dedicated Short Range Communications (DSRC) vehicle-to-vehicle technology experimentation in this band in the 1990s. DSRC has made little progress since then—its deployment is meager at best, only one automaker currently supports it, and no major models are scheduled to use DSRC in the near future. Indeed, the rest have jettisoned the failed technology of DSRC, focusing their efforts on the development of cellular vehicle-to-everything (C-V2X) automotive safety technologies.

Meanwhile, consumer demand for applications and services that rely on unlicensed spectrum has exploded. The technological standard for unlicensed use of the 5.9 GHz band, called 802.11ac, has long been established. The band below it is already used for Wi-Fi, and the Commission is exploring unlicensed opportunities in the 6 GHz band above it.

It is long past time for rethinking the highest valued use of this public resource. That is why I support a comprehensive conversation about how to proceed in the context of a notice of proposed rulemaking.

Thank you for sharing your views on this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part.

Ajit V. Pai