



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

January 16, 2020

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
United States Senate  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's rulemaking proceeding on the 6 GHz band and its potential impact on the electrical power industry in Alaska. I have consistently stated that the FCC will protect incumbent systems in the 6 GHz band, including electric utilities, from harmful interference. Notwithstanding the advocacy of many of these incumbents, we view this priority as a technical one, as opposed to a political one. Accordingly, our Office of Engineering and Technology has been evaluating a variety of issues, such as indoor and outdoor use cases and a variety of device power levels, to discern whether and to what extent unlicensed operations can exist alongside incumbent uses. The Commission will ultimately be driven by the facts in the record, including the technical analysis that OET compiles.

Notably, the Commission has been following the well-established interagency process for receiving the views of other federal agencies with equities in this proceeding. That process to date has included routine discussions and meetings with NTIA on behalf of other federal agencies and consultation with the Department of Energy and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. FCC personnel are regularly in contact with their counterparts at FERC on a variety of issues as circumstances arise, particularly in the area of public safety. In 2019, the FCC and FERC met repeatedly, with senior-level leadership teams visiting each other's headquarters to discuss issues of concern to both agencies.

Thank you for your interest. Please let me know if I may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai".

Ajit V. Pai