



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

June 15, 2020

The Honorable John N. Kennedy  
United States Senate  
416 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

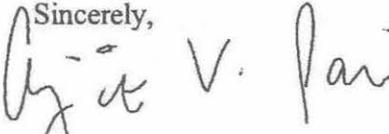
Dear Senator Kennedy:

Thank you for your continued interest in the Commission's ongoing rulemaking regarding the 3.7-4.2 GHz band, commonly called the C-band. The Commission continues to work to reallocate C-band spectrum for flexible terrestrial use and to assign that spectrum through a public auction. This proceeding is critical to maintaining U.S. leadership in 5G, and I appreciate and share your desire to use this proceeding to benefit American consumers and the U.S. economy.

To that end, I am pleased to report that the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau recently secured commitments from all five eligible satellite operators to meet an accelerated clearing timeline, paving the way for faster 5G deployment in the C-band. We are also still on track to begin an auction of 280 megahertz of C-band spectrum on December 8.

In your letter, you suggest the Commission institute a "Buy American" request to all satellite operators. In terms of procurement, the five eligible space station operators are required to file their Transition Plans for Commission review by June 19. These plans should provide detailed information on the specific aspects of the planned transitions for each operator, including plans to manufacture, procure, and launch new satellites. The Commission will provide an opportunity for public comment before the Transition Plans are finalized. We have encouraged eligible space station operators to purchase satellites built in the United States. Like you, I would like to see these funds used to support the U.S. aerospace industry and American workers. And I am optimistic that good news will be revealed on this front in the near future.

I appreciate your continued interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,  
  
Ajit V. Pai