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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
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JOHN KEAST, STAFF DIRECTOR
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June 15, 2020

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

Dear Chairman Pai,

5G – the fifth generation of wireless communications technology – is one of the most important technological developments facing the United States in the 21st Century. The anticipated impact that 5G networks will have on the future of our nation's economy and its global competitiveness is significant.

Winning the global race to 5G, however, depends in large part upon the availability of low, mid, and high-band spectrum resources. Mid-band spectrum is particularly vital to U.S. leadership in next-generation communications networks given its low latency, wide coverage, and high data capacity characteristics. Studies estimate that the economic impact of mid-band spectrum for commercial 5G networks will add \$274 billion to the U.S. economy and create over 1.3 million jobs.

We welcome the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) continued efforts to make more mid-band spectrum available for 5G. The FCC's sound and decisive approach to free up 280 megahertz of C-Band spectrum for flexible use will help deliver 5G services to all Americans. It will also help promote investment and innovation in new 5G applications and services and address America's mid-band spectrum deficit.

To succeed in 5G and secure American leadership in information communications technologies, we encourage the FCC to move swiftly to clear C-Band spectrum to meet its planned auction timeline in December.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to continuing to work with you to win the global race to 5G and bring its promising economic and social benefits to the United States.

Sincerely,



Roger F. Wicker
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation



John Thune
Chairman
U.S. Senate Subcommittee on
Communications, Technology, Innovation,
and the Internet