

FRANK PALLONE, JR., NEW JERSEY
CHAIRMAN

GREG WALDEN, OREGON
RANKING MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

474

2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927

Minority (202) 225-3641

June 1, 2020

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

Dear Chairman Pai:

We write in support of the “5G Upgrade Order,” which the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) will consider during its Open Meeting on June 9, 2020. During these unprecedented times, connectivity has remained a key component to supporting the economy, providing access to telehealth services, and facilitating distance learning. As the wireless industry continues to make upgrades to its networks, promote competition, and roll out new 5G services, this Order marks the next major step that the Commission can take to promote broadband buildout across our great country. Reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens to promote broadband deployment is a top priority for Congress, and we urge the Commission to approve this Order at your June Open Meeting.

The 5G Upgrade Order will allow companies to improve their services in our communities now, when they need it the most. It builds on Congress’ work on the SPECTRUM Act in 2012, which contained an important provision that promotes connectivity through collocation. Congress recognized that it is far more efficient and effective to promote broadband deployment and competition in the marketplace by utilizing existing infrastructure. Section 6409(a) of SPECTRUM Act provides that collocating new antennas and replacing or removing older antennas are nonsubstantial changes that should not require the same reviews as building new towers. The goal of the SPECTRUM Act was to ensure that these nonsubstantial changes would have streamlined processes for approval.

The Commission passed strong rules during the last decade to put Section 6409(a) into effect, which helped upgrade our networks to 4G. Now, wireless providers are moving to win a global race to deploy advanced, 5G networks, so it is time for the Commission to revisit these rules and to find ways to speed 5G deployment. This proposed Order would provide needed

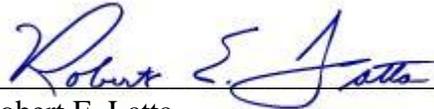
guidance and clarity that will help our communities benefit from greater connectivity and keep innovation in America.

Thank you for your leadership on this matter. If you have any questions, please contact Evan Viau or Kate O'Connor of the Minority Committee Staff at (202) 225-3641.

Sincerely,



Greg Walden
Republican Leader
Committee on Energy and Commerce



Robert E. Latta
Republican Leader
Subcommittee on Communications and
Technology



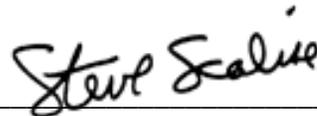
Fred Upton
Republican Leader
Subcommittee on Energy



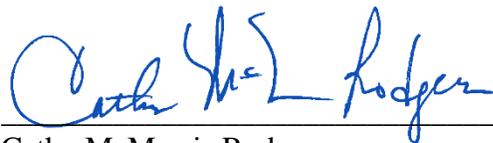
John Shimkus
Republican Leader
Subcommittee on Environment and
Climate Change



Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Republican Leader
Subcommittee on Health



Steve Scalise
Member of Congress



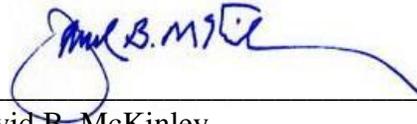
Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Republican Leader
Subcommittee on Consumer Protection
and Commerce



Brett Guthrie
Republican Leader
Subcommittee on Oversight and
Investigations



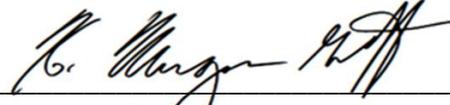
Pete Olson
Member of Congress



David B. McKinley
Member of Congress



Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Billy Long
Member of Congress



Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress



Bill Flores
Member of Congress



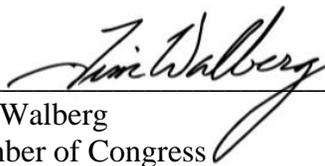
Susan W. Brooks
Member of Congress



Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress



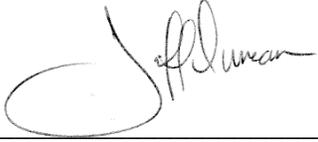
Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Duncan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress

cc: Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission

Brendan Carr, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission

Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission

Geoffrey Starks, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission