

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

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September 24, 2020

The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

As the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) finalizes its rule to implement the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act (the Act), we write to urge it to explicitly allow impacted carriers to use reimbursement funds to purchase Open RAN technology. With the Commission's recent finding that replacing certain Chinese-made and other untrusted equipment will cost at least \$1.84 billion, this moment presents a critical opportunity to secure and widen our mobile network supply chain by providing as many options as possible for impacted carriers.

Congress passed the Act to support small, rural telecommunications providers to rip out and replace certain Chinese-made and other untrusted equipment that presents significant national security concerns and risks to Americans' privacy. While we fully expect that equipment from trusted traditional RAN vendors will be reimbursable, as impacted carriers work to implement the requirements of the Act, Open RAN solutions that are secure, interoperable, interchangeable, and easily upgradeable to new applications and uses should also be made eligible for reimbursement. The FCC plays an important role in providing impacted carriers with the certainty they need to make investments for the future. Without clear guidance from the FCC, smaller carriers will be unable to move forward with their rip and replace plans in a timely manner.

Accordingly, we urge the FCC to adopt technology neutral rules that explicitly allow impacted carriers to use funds to purchase Open RAN solutions for their networks. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



Brett Guthrie  
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress