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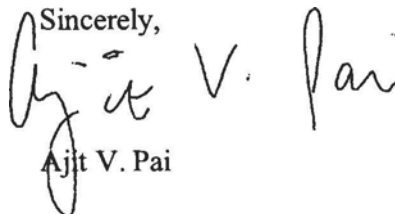
The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
425 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cantwell:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Commission's unanimous decision to improve the use of the 5.9 GHz band. We all share a desire to ensure Americans have ubiquitous access to vehicular safety options—and many safety technologies are the direct result of the FCC's allocation of commercial spectrum for this purpose. For example, back in 2017, I led an effort to allocate a large swath of contiguous spectrum in the 76-to-81 GHz band exclusively for vehicular radars. These radars have proved especially useful for emergency braking and adaptive cruise control.

At the same time, it is important to keep pace with technology so that we can identify and deploy underused spectrum and repurpose it as appropriate to support a broad range of consumer and safety innovations. That is why a bipartisan Commission adopted new rules for the 5.9 GHz band to improve automotive safety and make new spectrum available for unlicensed uses such as a Wi-Fi. Specifically, the new rules will improve automotive safety by reserving the upper 30 megahertz of the band for Intelligent Transportation System services and designating Cellular Vehicle-to-Everything (C-V2X) as the technology standard for safety-related transportation and vehicular communications. Given the failure of the previous technology standard—Dedicated Short Range Communications, or DSRC—our action should both increase the amount of spectrum available for unlicensed operations and enhance automobile safety. I look forward to both services proliferating as soon as possible.

Thank you for your letter. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai