



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

January 8, 2021

The Honorable Ted Cruz  
United States Senate  
404 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

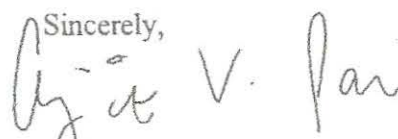
Dear Senator Cruz:

Thank you for your letter regarding the 12 GHz band. There is substantial interest regarding the 12 GHz band from both satellite and terrestrial interests. We have taken steps to make this spectrum available to a range of parties with the goal of maximizing its use in the public interest, and we continue to consider additional actions that might further increase use of the band.

For example, we have approved requests for authorization or market access in recent years associated with several proposed constellations of non-geostationary satellite orbit (NGSO) Fixed Satellite Service (FSS) constellations that would use the 12 GHz band, as well as other frequency bands, to provide broadband Internet access service to U.S. consumers, including in rural, remote, and underserved areas. Two of these companies have launched satellites and one soon will be providing service in the band. Since 2004, we have also had terrestrial Multichannel Video and Data Distribution Service (MVDDS) licensees authorized in the 12 GHz band pursuant to licenses assigned by auction under specific service and technical rules designed to permit them to share the 12.27-12.7 GHz band with direct broadcast satellite (DBS) and NGSO FSS. The MVDDS and NGSO rules are designed to ensure that neither service causes interference to DBS, and that those services do not cause harmful interference to each another.

We are always on the lookout for opportunities to make even greater use of all frequency bands, however, and the 12 GHz band is no different. That's why I recently circulated a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that seeks comment on whether we can increase sharing in the 12 GHz band while protecting incumbents from harmful interference or whether we should retain the status quo. The Commission has not arrived at any conclusions yet on how to proceed—indeed, the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, if adopted, would only start the conversation—but I do believe an open and honest discussion of the issues involved and rigorous analysis of what modern technology makes possible is in the public interest.

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

Sincerely,  
  
Ajit V. Pai