

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

211

Majority (202) 225-2927
Minority (202) 225-3641

March 22, 2022

The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel
Chairwoman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairwoman Rosenworcel:

We write seeking additional information regarding the spectrum auction program administered by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The FCC's spectrum auction program has been a success for the American public, making way for innovative new services and raising billions of dollars in federal revenue since its inception in 1994.¹ We also recognize that the FCC's general authority to grant permits or issue new licenses in the spectrum bands that it auctions will expire on September 30, 2022, unless Congress acts.²

The commercial use of spectrum helps drive economic growth and provides consumers with access to high-speed and reliable wireless broadband services. Indeed, Americans across the country would not have access to 5G wireless technology (5G) and Wi-Fi today if the FCC had not made certain spectrum bands available for commercial use. We also know that 6G and other next-generation wireless technologies are around the corner and will likely require commercial use of additional spectrum bands to ensure that consumers reap the full benefits of these technological advancements.³

¹ Federal Communications Commission, Auctions Summary (www.fcc.gov/auctions-summary) (accessed Mar. 4, 2022).

² 47 U.S.C. § 309.

³ Nokia Bell Labs, *Extreme massive MIMO for macro cell capacity boost in 5G-Advanced and 6G* (Oct. 2021) (d1p0gxnqcu0lvz.cloudfront.net/documents/Nokia_Bell_Labs_Extreme_massive_MIMO_for_macro_cell_capacity_whitepaper_EN.pdf).

For these reasons and others, Congress must ensure that spectrum is made available for commercial use in an efficient and timely manner, which includes through the use of auctions.⁴

Accordingly, to better understand the Commission's recent activities with respect to its spectrum auction program as we continue to examine the FCC's spectrum auction authority, we would appreciate your detailed responses to the following questions:

1. Given Congress has granted frequency-specific, extended statutory authority for auctions to the FCC in some instances, what specific auction authority will the FCC retain after the expiration of its general auction authority on September 30, 2022? How might this expiration affect the FCC's operations?
2. What spectrum auctions are pending or in the rulemaking process? When do you expect to close those auctions and complete the post-auction licensing process associated with them?
3. What statutory tools, beyond auction authority, do you believe would improve the FCC's ability to make additional commercial spectrum available for auction in the future?
4. What specific frequencies, if any, do you believe are good candidates for auction that the FCC does not currently have the authority to conduct following the September 30, 2022, expiration date?
5. What policy reforms can be made to the FCC's spectrum auction rules to promote international competitiveness, maximize the efficient use of spectrum, and foster the rapid deployment of next-generation technologies?

⁴ Federal Communications Commission, About Auctions (www.fcc.gov/auctions/about-auctions) (accessed Mar. 4, 2022).

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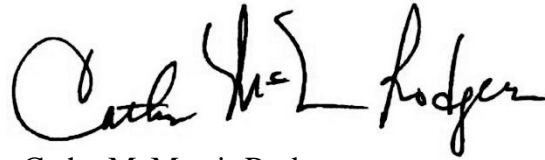
Page 3

We appreciate your prompt attention to the matters raised in this letter and look forward to receiving your responses. Should you have any questions, please contact Johanna Thomas of the Majority Committee staff at (202) 225-2927 or Kate O'Connor of the Minority Committee staff at (202) 225-3641.

Sincerely,



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Chairman



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member



Mike Doyle
Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications
and Technology



Robert E. Latta
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Communications
and Technology