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July 2, 2022

449

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

Chair Rosenworcel:

I write today concerning the consideration of Docket 20-443, “Expanding Flexible Use of the 12.2-12.7 GHz Band,” a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that not only would impact our national security and the critical aerospace industrial base in my district, but would also disrupt service for millions of broadband consumers in the United States. Given these concerns, it is my hope that FCC will close this proceeding and commit to not harming users who rely on next-generation, low Earth orbit (LEO) satellite broadband services in the United States.

America’s path to space runs through Florida’s 8th Congressional district, which hosts broad manufacturing and processing operations and nearly all of our domestic launches to orbit. Our commercial space sector is driving this exciting activity in close partnership with NASA and the Department of Defense. Notably, nearly half of the launches from my district today—which are threatened by this proceeding—support the buildout of next-generation, non-geostationary orbit (NGSO) satellite broadband systems providing high-speed internet to millions of Americans previously unserved or underserved by other options. Globally, the vast potential of these systems is readily apparent in the ongoing war in Ukraine, where they are being used for both the physical fight against Russian forces and to combat Moscow’s ongoing disinformation campaign in the region.

Dozens of companies and community organizations, including NGSO providers and the major wireless telecommunications companies, have filed in opposition to the ongoing proceeding at FCC, noting the extreme disruption to ongoing operations if it is adopted. If U.S.-licensed systems lose access to this critical spectrum under this proposal, countries like China will fill the void. China has proposed a competitor system to rival the U.S., and reports indicate that the Chinese government is increasingly concerned with the free flow of information provided through American broadband systems.^[1]

^[1] “Chinese Military Analyst Floats Idea to Hack Musk’s Starlink”, *Bloomberg*. June 22, 2022. Available at: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/newsletters/2022-06-22/chinese-military-analyst-floats-idea-to-hack-musk-s-starlink>

The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel

July 2, 2022

Page 2

Given these geopolitical risks and the domestic impacts to our industrial base and addressing the digital divide across the country, I hope you will consider using your discretion to end the 12 GHz proceeding. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Posey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "P" at the end.

Bill Posey
Member of Congress