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

Dear Chairwoman Rosenworcel,

I write regarding a potential action at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that could cause service disruptions for millions of Americans, including many in California and my district. I have received hundreds of letters from constituents on this matter and I encourage you to carefully consider the impact terrestrial operations could have on the incumbent services deployed in the 12 GHz band.

As you know, the FCC is currently considering Docket 20-443, "Expanding Flexible Use of the 12.2-12.7 GHz Band." This Notice of Proposed Rulemaking creates potential interference for current users of the 12 GHz band, which could result in massive disruptions to services such as high-speed satellite broadband. As adversaries and near-peer adversaries work tirelessly to overtake America's edge in communications technology and space, I encourage you to carefully consider any changes in this band, as it may disrupt significant innovation and investment made by satellite operators.

High-speed internet and other modern telecommunications technologies are absolutely essential for businesses, families, hospitals, schools, and numerous other daily activities. Tens of thousands of Californians are already using next-generation technologies like high-speed satellite internet, and many more stand to benefit if the FCC does not disrupt that careful sharing arrangement that currently governs the use of the band. The FCC made clear that the petitioners asking for new rights for the speculative uses in the 12 GHz band had to submit technical parameters for the new technologies they propose to deploy, and would have to submit evidence on how coexistence on a non-interference basis was possible within the band. Unfortunately, neither of these requirements have been met, creating a loss of both service and access to high-speed internet for Californians who rely on the 12 GHz band.

I hope you will carefully weigh these serious implications as you continue with this proceeding. If the conditions the FCC placed on the petitioners cannot be met, I would ask that you not move forward with any action that could damage current users of the band. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Michelle Steel
Member of Congress