

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 24, 2022

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

Chairwoman Rosenworcel,

I write today regarding the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) in its consideration of Docket 20-443, "Expanding Flexible Use of the 12.2-12.7 GHz Band", a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking with serious implications for national security and domestic efforts to close the digital divide. This proceeding threatens current U.S. leadership in the race for satellite-based internet and could damage U.S. national interests and security.


Events in Ukraine have shown just how critical modern telecommunications equipment is. Satellite internet has been crucial to ensuring continued internet access in Ukraine and has proven to be a game-changer in both the physical fight against Russian forces and the disinformation campaign being waged. Access to the internet through the SpaceX Starlink network "totally destroyed" the Russian disinformation campaign, and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky stated that the Starlink network has been "very effective" in Ukraine. Additionally, countries like China are proposing to build competing space technologies that would threaten U.S. national interests. China has filed plans at the International Telecommunications Union for a state-sponsored competitor system to rival Starlink, and the geopolitical risk of having a Chinese-backed system dominating space internet is very real.

Beyond the national security implications, serious damage would be caused on the domestic front as well. The 12 GHz band, heavily used and carefully shared, is one of the most important bands used to provide high-speed internet to rural and remote areas in our country and in my district. Thousands of families in Ohio are already benefiting from high-speed satellite internet, many of whom have access to this service for the first time. Millions of Americans stand to benefit if these services can continue their rapid development.

But these benefits will only be realized if the FCC removes uncertainty by bringing the 12 GHz proceeding to a close. For 18 months, the petitioners asking for new rights in the 12 GHz band have not proposed technical parameters for the new technologies they seek to deploy. Since the FCC was explicit in requiring non-interference as a prerequisite to any consideration of new rights within the band, it is unclear why the FCC has kept this proceeding open. The record is clear: new high-power rights within the 12 GHz band would cause massive disruptions in service.

If the vital 12 GHz band of spectrum is no longer available for use by satellite networks, millions of Americans will be harmed, including hundreds of households in my district. I look forward to working with you in our efforts to protect the nation and close the digital divide.

Sincerely,



MIKE CAREY  
Member of Congress