

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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August 31st, 2022

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

Chair Rosenworcel,

I write today regarding Docket 20-443 (“Expanding Flexible Use of the 12.2-12.7 GHz Band”) in front of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). This proceeding has serious implications for current users of the band, including millions of Americans, and tens of thousands of Washingtonians, who benefit from services like high-speed satellite internet. Many of my constituents are concerned that the FCC might take an action that shuts the door on their ability to use these services now and in the future. I share their concern, and therefore ask that you not allow any harm to come to those who are currently using the band.

Washington, like many states, has large sections that have often not been served by traditional broadband options. For families, and businesses in rural and suburban areas, next-generation technologies like satellite services have been complete game-changers. This includes multiple tribal nations and the Washington Department of Emergency Management, who rely on satellite internet for connectivity when fighting wildfires. For many of these areas, this is the first time they’ve had access to high-speed, low-latency broadband. What is more, due to the infeasibility of extending terrestrial broadband, satellite provides the only possible option for high-speed broadband to these and other hard-to-reach communities. This connectivity was made possible through the use of the 12 GHz band, which many satellite operators were permitted to use by the FCC years ago. All of this progress in closing the digital divide is now in question, due to the probable interference that would result if a new high-powered mobile technology is authorized within the band. Multiple technical analyses^[1] have demonstrated what would result from the FCC authorizing a new mobile high-powered use in the band, and this interference was even repeatedly noted in the petitioners’ own filings.^[2] For all those who have experienced first-

^[1] SpaceX Analysis of the Effect of Terrestrial Mobile Deployment on NGSO FSS Downlink Operations. Available at https://api.starlink.com/public-files/12GHzInterferenceStudy_062022.pdf (June 21, 2022); OneWeb Ex Parte and Study FINAL. Available at <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/search/search-filings/filing/107112551729250> ; DirectTV 12 GHz DBS Interference Analysis (7-18-2022). Available at <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/search/search-filings/filing/10718615012674>

^[2] “[C]oncurrent sharing of spectrum between co-primary 5G and NGSO FSS operations is not viable in the 12 GHz Band.”, Letter from Alison Minea to Marlene H. Dortch, IBFS File No. SAT-MOD-20180319-00022 and Docket No. RM-11768, at 3 (Dec. 2, 2019).

hand just how important satellite services are, this would be a major step backwards in bringing 21st century technologies to remote and rural areas.

I ask that you use your authority to protect current consumers who are benefitting from the use of the 12 GHz band, and not proceed with any action that would disrupt the carefully balanced arrangement that currently governs the band. Thank you and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marilyn Strickland', written in a cursive style.

Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress

^[1] SpaceX Analysis of the Effect of Terrestrial Mobile Deployment on NGSO FSS Downlink Operations. Available at https://api.starlink.com/public-files/12GHzInterferenceStudy_062022.pdf (June 21, 2022); OneWeb Ex Parte and Study FINAL. Available at <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/search/search-filings/filing/107112551729250> ; DirectTV 12 GHz DBS Interference Analysis (7-18-2022). Available at <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/search/search-filings/filing/10718615012674>

² “[C]oncurrent sharing of spectrum between co-primary 5G and NGSO FSS operations is not viable in the 12 GHz Band.”, Letter from Alison Minea to Marlene H. Dortch, IBFS File No. SAT-MOD-20180319-00022 and Docket No. RM-11768, at 3 (Dec. 2, 2019).