



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

September 19, 2022

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

Dear Chairwoman Rosenworcel,

I write today concerning a proceeding at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that I have been informed could disrupt critical service for millions of Americans should it move forward. The FCC is considering Docket 20-443, "Expanding Flexible Use of the 12.2-12.7 GHz Band," a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that I believe could pose a serious threat to the essential broadband services provided in this band which benefit many Americans.

As you know, this band is heavily used and carefully shared. And, it is one of the most important bands used to provide high-speed internet to rural and remote areas in our country – such as my Congressional district in rural Eastern and Southeastern Ohio. I've had the benefit of seeing next-generation satellite technology in action – I have actually successfully set up and tested the speeds of LEO broadband here in Washington and have been very encouraged by the positive reports of their performance in remote areas of Ohio and across the country.

Furthermore, for rural and remote areas, satellite internet may be the only realistic option for high-speed internet and all the benefits that come with being connected in today's digital age. As you know, high-speed internet is no longer a luxury for households and businesses; it is a necessary feature and essential service for work, school, healthcare, and countless other daily activities. As thousands of rural Ohioans already benefiting from high-speed satellite internet can attest, many of whom have been on the wrong side of the digital divide and can finally now access this service for the first time, millions of Americans stand to benefit if these services can continue to rapidly expand across the nation.

However, I believe these benefits will be jeopardized unless the FCC removes uncertainty by bringing the 12 GHz proceeding to a close. It is my understanding that for over a year the petitioners asking for new rights in the 12 GHz band have not proposed technical parameters for the new technologies they plan to deploy. Additionally, the petitioners' own filings admit that "[C]oncurrent sharing of spectrum between co-primary 5G and NGSO FSS operations is not

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viable in the 12 GHz Band.”¹ Importantly, recent technical analysis shows that 75 percent of current Starlink users will face a loss of service if the Dish proposal is approved.² For school children, small businesses, Tribal communities, and hundreds of thousands of users, this will be a drastic step backwards for access to high-speed internet and other services, and will impede closing the digital divide. As the FCC is explicitly requiring non-interference as a prerequisite to any consideration of new rights within the band, I respectfully encourage the FCC to expeditiously examine the provided analysis and make its determination on this NPRM.

If the vital 12 GHz band of spectrum is no longer available for use by satellite networks, millions of Americans will be harmed, including in my own district. Thank you for your leadership and for your consideration of my request. I look forward to working together to meet the goal of connecting every American to high-speed internet, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke under the "J".

Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

¹ 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).

² 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).