

September 6, 2022

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

Chair Rosenworcel:

As you know, broadband access is a top issue across the United States, including in New York. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has emphasized the need for high-speed, reliable, and affordable internet options—and the impact to those without—for school, work, and telehealth. It is critical that the U.S. Government take steps to expand connectivity options across a variety of technologies. In rural and remote areas, next-generation satellite systems can serve as a lifeline for many American families, connecting those in “broadband deserts” and providing valuable competition in other areas.

Beyond supporting commercial consumer access, these systems also support American National Security Space requirements and those of our allies, including Ukraine where more than 150,000 people rely on American satellite systems to stay connected during the war with Russia. As a Member of the Armed Services Committee, I am particularly aware of the importance of secure, global satellite communications, and I am proud to represent New York’s 25<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, which has a long and storied history supporting America’s space programs. Today, many of the companies in my district supply critical components to non-geostationary orbit (NGSO) satellite broadband systems and the rockets that launch them to space, including highly-precise optical intersatellite links and machined parts.

I understand that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is considering a rulemaking (Docket 20-443, “Expanding Flexible Use of the 12.2-12.7 GHz Band”) that could inhibit or eliminate NGSO systems by allowing for harmful interference in the spectrum that they utilize, cutting off more than 1,000,000 Americans from the web, damaging the Nation’s foreign policy interests, and harming my constituents in the supply chain. Given these potential impacts, I respectfully urge you to fully and carefully consider this issue, and to avoid taking any actions that would disrupt these critical systems.

Sincerely,



Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress