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

Dear Chair Rosenworcel,

I am writing to comment on the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) for Docket 20-443 ("Expanding Flexible Use of the 12.2-12.7 GHz Band"). As the FCC reviews rule changes for the 12 GHz spectrum band, please consider the impact its decision will have on households in my district and throughout the U.S. that use satellite systems to access broadband and other basic amenities. Allowing mobile operations in the 12 GHz band would degrade these licensed satellite services, which are efficiently and effectively using the spectrum to reach homes that are often overlooked by traditional communications infrastructure. The FCC's decision should not disadvantage operators and families who depend on the rules for 12 GHz that applied when these services were offered.

As you know, many rural Americans lack reliable access to broadband. In Wisconsin, this problem is especially familiar, with nearly one in 10 residents lacking internet meeting the FCC's current definition of broadband. Over the past two years, the COVID-19 pandemic has magnified the challenges for those without broadband by eliminating options to conduct work or education from home and by making any Wi-Fi-equipped community centers less safe to visit. Recognizing the need for alternative solutions, the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) engaged with SpaceX in the early stages of deploying its Starlink satellite constellation to coordinate a project to connect 50 homes and businesses with high-speed, low-latency internet in Eau Claire County, Wisconsin, where residents had previously relied on cost-prohibitive cellular hotspots. Since then, Starlink has expanded to serve several thousand households in Wisconsin.

When the FCC opened its NPRM proceeding in January 2021, it asked petitioners to demonstrate that incumbent providers in the 12 GHz band would not be disrupted by two-way mobile operations. Multiple satellite operators have now commented on the docket with technical analyses showing constant interference and degradation to their services if the FCC permits this new use of the 12 GHz band. Further, more than 40 independent organizations and close to 100,000 households using low Earth orbit (LEO) satellite systems for broadband have opposed rule changes.

Following over 18 months of feedback from stakeholders, the FCC should conclude its proceeding and protect families in Wisconsin that rely on services operated in the 12 GHz band. Thank you for your work reviewing this important matter.

Sincerely,



Ron Kind (WI-03)  
Member of Congress