

H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

9TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

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September 27, 2022

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The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel
Chairwoman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Chairwoman Rosenworcel,

I write today regarding the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) consideration of potential changes to the 12 GHz band. The FCC is considering a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking – Docket 20-443, "Expanding Flexible Use of the 12.2-12.7 GHz Band" and I understand that you recently announced plans to seek a vote on a 12 GHz Notice of Inquiry at the commission's October 27th open meeting.

As a Representative from a rural district with many areas that have been underserved or unserved for years, I urge you to prioritize rural Americans' access to high-speed internet in any decision made regarding the 12 GHz, or any other, spectrum band.

In my district in Southwest Virginia, I have personally seen the benefits that next generation technologies like satellite internet can provide. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, SpaceX's Starlink began working with regional non-profits and counties in my district to connect those without reliable broadband service. Starlink has already connected over 350 student homes in Southwest Virginia, and I understand has plans to reach over 600 families across eight counties soon. For many of these families, satellite internet is the only realistic option for high-speed internet.

I understand this is valuable spectrum with multiple potential uses. In making decisions related to the 12GHz band, I urge the Commission to carefully balance the needs of the country, with special attention to rural Americans who have been left behind in the digital divide for years. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Morgan Griffith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress