



OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN BRENDAN CARR

What They Are Saying: Stakeholders Applaud C-Band Auction

Chairman Carr Is Advancing America's Wireless Leadership

FCC to Vote on Wednesday on Upper C-Band Rules for July 2027 Auction

WASHINGTON, July 21, 2026—The Federal Communications Commission will vote on Wednesday on an Order to adopt rules to auction 160 megahertz of spectrum in the Upper C-Band (3.98-4.14 GHz) by July 2027. The rules would effectively harmonize terrestrial wireless operations across the entire C-Band to create a single “super-band” spanning 440 megahertz (3.70-4.14 GHz) of prime, mid-band spectrum.

This sets America up to lead the world in next-gen connectivity and stakeholders across the board are applauding the action.

What they are saying:

Senate Commerce Committee Chairman Ted Cruz: “I applaud Chairman Carr and the FCC for advancing market-based, pro-growth spectrum policy and delivering on the Working Families Tax Cuts Act. Freeing up prime spectrum for auction will drive investment and create jobs, enhance American leadership in wireless innovation, and result in better coverage and faster speeds for consumers.”

House Energy and Commerce Committee: “The Working Families Tax Cuts put money back in people's pockets and restored the FCC's spectrum auction authority. Now the FCC is preparing to launch those Congressionally directed auctions—the first of their kind in 5 years—and Americans will benefit. New technologies. Faster speeds. Promises made. Promises kept.”

Roger Entner: “The megahertz, the timeline, and the proceeds are what carriers can bank. Credit where it is due. After years of the US ceding mid-band ground, [Chairman] Carr took an unprecedented statutory mandate and turned it into 160 MHz, on time, with aviation safety intact and the Treasury ahead. That is execution, and it has earned the record-speed recognition it is getting.”

Steve Forbes: “Great news from Chairman Carr at FCC. This auction critical to unleashing spectrum and putting in the hands of US wireless companies to build on it. Auctions will help grow the economy and keep the US moving forward with next generation technology!”

Douglas Holtz-Eakin: “While more is better, and the prospect of 160 MHz is very appealing, there are three more reasons to like this plan...it will create a unified C-band...the FCC coordinated effectively with the Federal Aviation Agency... [and] the plan also puts money on the table to cover retrofitting and relocation costs for those affected by the auction.”

Roslyn Layton: “Spectrum auctions represent one of the best American innovations. Bravo Chairman Carr for advancing the ‘Super Band’ vision for 5G and 6G, teeing up the next spectrum auction with 160 MHz of prime mid-band spectrum to strengthen America’s wireless leadership.”

Steve Moore: “Go go go Brendan Carr. Keep deregulating and creating wealth and prosperity!”

Grover Norquist: “The Working Families Tax Cut rightly sold off government assets to people who will make better use of them. The biggest government-owned asset is spectrum. Re-opening spectrum auctions after four years without them will turbo-charge investment in the communications sector.”

Peter Rysavy: “It’s great to see the FCC moving so quickly to auction new spectrum for cellular. An auction next year will deliver 160 MHz of essential new mid-band spectrum, extending the current 3.7–3.98 GHz C-band to 3.7–4.14 GHz and creating a contiguous band spanning 440 MHz.”

American Compass: “American industry cannot reclaim global leadership without adequate connectivity. We applaud Chairman Carr and the FCC for not only moving quickly to take action on the spectrum provisions of the One Big Beautiful Bill, but also going beyond the minimum required with this auction. Delivering new spectrum to the private sector is critically important for American AI dominance and reindustrialization.” Chris Griswold, Policy Director

American Commitment: “This is fantastic news for consumers, businesses, and the US economy. More prime spectrum means better, faster wireless service, more competition for home broadband, and American leadership for 6G. Thank you Mr. Chairman!” Phil Kerpen, President

American Enterprise Institute: “The FCC reviews the rules for the Upper C Band auction on July 22 at the Open Meeting, teeing up a 2027 auction of 160 MHz of prime mid-band spectrum to create a “super band” that will harmonize Lower + Upper into one contiguous band for continuity. Smart Move.” Shane Tews, Nonresident Senior Fellow

AT&T: “Today’s action keeps America on the path to a stronger wireless future. We applaud the FCC for moving quickly to advance the Upper C-band and for taking a proactive approach to stakeholder coordination across various industries and government agencies to help chart a practical path forward for deployment. This spectrum will help fuel the next generation of wireless innovation, preparing our networks for 6G and the technologies consumers and businesses will rely on for years to come.” Rhonda Johnson, Executive Vice President, Federal Regulatory Relations

Bull Moose Project: “We enthusiastically support Chairman Carr’s move to hold a vote on auctioning spectrum, a crucial decision which will unlock American innovation. This is a win for Americans, American providers, and America itself.” Aiden Buzetti, President

Consumers Research: “A great move by Chairman Carr. Good for the economy, good for innovation, and good for our technological arms race with Communist China.” Will Hild, Executive Director

CTIA: “I commend Chairman Carr, the FCC, and the FAA for moving quickly on the Upper C-Band. This will be one of the most economically significant auctions of the decade, generating billions in economic growth, creating millions of jobs, expanding broadband competition, and building the foundation for AI and 6G leadership. To ensure America wins the race to AI-native 6G networks in 2030, we need the same speed and decisiveness across the full 800-megahertz spectrum pipeline.” Ajit Pai, President

Digital First Project: “American leadership does not happen by accident. It takes public officials who understand that the future belongs to countries willing to build, compete, and move with urgency. That is why Chairman Brendan Carr’s latest announcement is such an important win. The FCC’s plan to auction 160 megahertz of prime Upper C-Band spectrum is more than a technical spectrum decision. This major new spectrum auction may sound technical, but the bigger story is simple: Carr is helping put America back on offense.”

Digital Liberty: “The Biden admin failed to hold a single spectrum auction in four years. This is an improvement. The AWS auction was one of the fastest yet. The Working Families Tax Cut marked even more government spectrum for privatization. Hopefully this too will be delivered in record time.” James Erwin, Executive Director

Digital Progress Institute: “While China was building 5G dominance, we were stuck. Chairman Carr announced a vote to auction 160 MHz of upper C-band. This will create a 440 MHz super-band. Not only is America’s wireless leadership back, but it is also positioning us well to dominate AI!” Joel Thayer, President

Foundation for American Innovation: “The FCC is ‘on time, on budget, and on schedule’ for the C-Band auction next year. Hats off to Chairman Carr and the team for all the hard interagency work to get this one over the finish line.” Luke Hogg, Director of Policy

Hispanic Leadership Fund: “Freeing up 160 MHz of prime mid-band spectrum. This is an important step forward in helping America stay ahead of China in the race for 5G, 6G, etc. This helps both grow American jobs and furthers American leadership.” Mario Lopez, President

High Tech Forum: “I’m very pleased by the policies the FCC is adopting on the C-Band. To wit, this is good news ... The C-Band is vital spectrum for Fixed Wireless Access (FWA), the service that provides competitive alternatives to the former cable monopoly and to newly emerging fiber and LEO satellite broadband. Auctioning off more spectrum in this band will make FWA faster, cheaper, and more available than it is now. This is a win for competition.” Richard Bennet, Founder

Information Technology Industry Foundation: “This is great news coming out of the FCC today. This auction will be a boon for 5G and 6G connectivity in America.” Ellis Scherer, Policy Analyst

International Center for Law and Economics: “The Commission has taken a range of actions to open the full C-band to flexible use, but the Upper C-band has sat on the sidelines for too long,” Westling said. “Today’s announcement is a critical step toward getting these frequencies into operators’ networks quickly. Paired with the Lower C-band, operators will have access to a contiguous 440-megahertz block of spectrum—the foundation for next-generation wireless networks, applications, and services.” Jeffery Westling, Senior Scholar for Innovation Policy

The Market Institute: “The FCC auctioning 160 MHz of Upper C-Band spectrum is exactly how this should work. Government gets out of the way, market forces allocate a scarce resource efficiently, billions flow to the Treasury, and consumers get faster, cheaper 5G/6G. This is the free market playbook.”

NATE: “NATE commends Chairman Carr and the Commission for moving this auction forward on an aggressive but workable timeline. Our member companies are the ones who will climb the towers, build the small cells, and install the equipment needed to put this spectrum to work, and a large, contiguous block of mid-band spectrum means a sustained pipeline of deployment work for the

skilled workforce our industry represents. We're also encouraged by the close coordination between the FCC and the FAA on protecting radio altimeters, which reflects the kind of careful planning needed to clear spectrum without compromising aviation safety. NATE looks forward to working with the Commission, Congress, and our industry partners to build the infrastructure that will carry this spectrum to the American people." Todd Schlekeway, President

National Taxpayers Union: "Good news for taxpayers and consumers: the FCC is taking steps to open up more spectrum for private use. This is a boon for cell phones and other devices and will bring billions into the Treasury to help address our out-of-control debt."

R Street Institute: "Good news on the spectrum front today. The FCC announced it will vote to tee up 160 MHz of Upper C-Band for auction next year. This meets the OBBBA mandate to get this band to market. This is what an early step toward winning the 6G race looks like: getting spectrum moving." Mark Dalton, Senior Director of Technology and Innovation

Taxpayer Protection Alliance: "FCC Chairman Carr's planned spectrum auction in the Upper C-Band next year will lead to more jobs and more affordable internet. This is an important move for taxpayers and consumers."

Verizon: "The FCC's vote to make 160 MHz of Upper C Band spectrum available for commercial wireless use is a huge step forward for the United States. When combined with the lower C Band spectrum auctioned in 2020, the FCC is creating a 'superband' needed to unlock tremendous technical advances and drive enormous benefits to U.S. consumers, the economy, and national security. And the FCC completed its work in record time, acting with unprecedented speed to move to a final order and get this spectrum to market. We congratulate Chairman Carr and the FCC on their successful collaboration with the FAA and other stakeholders to navigate the complexity surrounding this band and to deliver a decisive win for the American people." Kathy Grillo, Senior Vice President, Public Policy and Government Affairs

WIA: "WIA is pleased that the FCC is going beyond the minimum directed by Congress to make 160 MHz of prime mid-band spectrum available and harmonizing operational rules across the C-Band, unlocking new economies of scale and creating more value from this scarce resource." Patrick Halley, President

ZETA – Gen-Z Emerging Technology Action: "GenZ can't lead in AI if we're stuck with limited, overpriced broadband. By unlocking the Upper C-Band, the FCC is fueling new 5G home choices, lower bills, and the infrastructure required to keep U.S. networks ready for AI-native 6G by 2030."

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**Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov / (202) 418-0500
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