

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 26, 2020

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

Thank you for your recent testimony before the Energy and Commerce Committee. As you heard from Committee members, our nation needs additional spectrum to win the race to 5G. And you and your colleagues have made it clear that means making more high-, mid-, and low-band spectrum available. We understand that mid-band spectrum is particularly important because it can satisfy both coverage and capacity requirements that 5G will require.

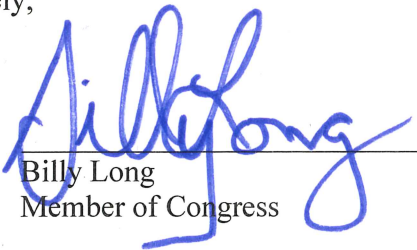
As you also heard, there is strong desire to use spectrum auction proceeds to help fund important but costly public communications priorities, including the deployment of broadband in unserved rural communities, next-generation 911 services, and replacing Chinese telecommunications equipment that presents a national security risk. While we are excited about forthcoming spectrum auctions, we are concerned that they may only result in a "down payment" in both the need for additional mid-band spectrum and revenues for these priorities.

Since 2017, when the Federal Communications Commission began examining potential new uses of the 6 GHz (5.925-7.125 GHz) band, much has changed in the communications space. 5G services are now being deployed across the country, but mid-band spectrum is still a critical missing piece of the 5G puzzle. While we agree that more spectrum is needed for unlicensed devices, if we want 5G to reach all corners of the nation, not just urban areas, we need the combination of coverage and capacity that only mid-band spectrum provides. Taking this into account, we ask that you consider the feasibility of licensing a portion of the 6 GHz band in a timely manner.

Given the importance of 5G to our economic and national security futures, we ask you to consider the feasibility of multiple allocations of the 6 GHz band, including whether it best serves the public interest to make a portion of this valued resource available for licensed commercial development, particularly if we can offer the American taxpayer additional sources of revenue for national priorities.

Thank you again for your hard work and for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Billy Long
Member of Congress


Susan W. Brooks
Member of Congress

cc: Hon. Commissioner Michael O'Rielly
Hon. Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Hon. Commissioner Brendan Carr
Hon. Commissioner Geoffrey Starks