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November 19, 2019

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

Dear Chairman Pai:

I write today to urge the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to move forward with plans to make additional spectrum available in the 5.9 GHz band for unlicensed wireless devices while maintaining the ability of important highway safety technology to operate. Since 2013, I have consistently supported legislation and sent letters calling on the FCC to free up underutilized spectrum to help meet the needs of the modern communications marketplace.

Since the FCC initially allocated 75 MHz of spectrum in the 5.9 GHz band for Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), there have been significant advances in technology that have fundamentally changed the way vehicles and WiFi devices operate. In that time, WiFi and other technologies that run on unlicensed spectrum, have produced tremendous innovation and hundreds of billions of dollars in economic growth. The success of WiFi, and the broader unlicensed ecosystem, has produced considerable pressure on unlicensed spectrum bands that are quickly becoming overburdened.

Because of this growing demand, the spectrum that allows us to stay connected is more valuable than ever, and we need innovative solutions that most efficiently utilize this limited resource. Six years ago, the FCC started a conversation about alleviate growing congestion in unlicensed spectrum bands by putting the 5.9 GHz spectrum band to more efficient use. The time is now for the FCC to finalize this effort by putting forward a compromise plan that provides needed resources for the unlicensed ecosystem while preserving critical safety operations like ITS. I urge the FCC to move forward with its commitment to ensure this valuable mid-band spectrum will be quickly put to efficient use.

I thank you for your attention and look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress