

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 20, 2019

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street Southwest
Washington, D.C. 200554

Dear Chairman Pai:

As the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Congress, and the White House have all recognized, 5G will require greater availability of both unlicensed and licensed spectrum. In MOBILE NOW, Congress directed the FCC to identify at least 100 megahertz for unlicensed use below 8 GHz and at least 100 megahertz of spectrum for licensed use below 6 GHz. Since the passage of that legislation, the need for more unlicensed spectrum continues to increase, and we commend the FCC's recognition of the massive contributions the Wi-Fi ecosystem has had on America's economy. We write to urge you to move forward with new rules for unlicensed use in the 6 GHz band as soon as possible while protecting existing users of the band.


Additional unlicensed spectrum resources are necessary with the rollout of 5G networks. With the development of unlicensed technologies like Wi-Fi, Americans have come to rely upon unlicensed spectrum to connect, produce, and access information. Wi-Fi plays an integral role in our society—from serving as a platform for health care and precision agriculture to enabling connectivity for military bases, universities, and hospitals.

Over the last two years, you have made important strides toward meeting that demand by proposing new rules for sharing the 6 GHz band. Today, many different users, including fixed point-to-point microwave operations and television distribution and production operations, share the spectrum. It is vital that the FCC protect these operations from harmful interference, and we are encouraged that your proposal determined that co-existence with Wi-Fi is feasible with the right rules.

Wi-Fi is an American success story led by American companies. To ensure that the United States does not fall behind on the availability of unlicensed spectrum as we rollout 5G technologies, we urge the FCC to take action regarding unlicensed use of the 6 GHz band as soon as possible.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



JOHN THUNE
United States Senator



DEB FISCHER
United States Senator



JERRY MORAN
United States Senator