

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 4, 2020

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

Dear Chairman Pai,

We write to express our support for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to allocate the entire 1,200 MHz of spectrum in the 5.925–7.125 GHz (6 GHz) band for unlicensed uses such as Wi-Fi and affordable broadband deployment. Unlicensed spectrum has been a foundation for countless innovations in the last three decades and our country needs more of it to enable the next wave of innovations.

The FCC allocated some spectrum for unlicensed uses in 1989, which innovators could use without prior approval. No one could have foreseen how this spectrum would enable an explosion in innovation that has impacted nearly every American's life. Over two billion internet-connected devices – laptops, tablets, cell phones, smart home appliances, and internet of things devices – depend on Wi-Fi and are commonplace in homes, schools, libraries, offices, warehouses, coffee shops, and restaurants around our country. These devices have revolutionized education, communications, commerce, entertainment, and so many other domains of every day life. Additionally, both rural and urban communities enjoy high speed internet access made affordable by using unlicensed spectrum.

The FCC's early decisions to enable unlicensed uses led to a success-based problem: we now need a lot more spectrum to keep pace with today's internet traffic and to enable new forms of internet uses that are even more reliant on data and spectrum. Advances in artificial intelligence, virtual and augmented reality, and internet-connected sensors have the potential to improve many aspects of society drastically, but these data-intensive technologies will rely, in part, on Wi-Fi. Furthermore, our country's success in 5G is dependent on sufficient spectrum to support offloading mobile internet traffic onto Wi-Fi, which carries over half of all internet traffic today.

The FCC should only finalize actions in the 6 GHz band when it is confident that incumbent users can be protected from harmful interference, including by using spectrum-sharing technologies, as has been done in other bands. This is important because many rely on the 6 GHz band for public safety uses today.

We're excited about the advances in technology that we anticipate Wi-Fi will enable. We're even more excited about the unimaginable innovation that entrepreneurs will dream up when more spectrum is available for unlicensed uses.

Most gratefully,



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Geoffrey Starks, Commissioner