WIFIFORWARD

GSMA 6 GHz Report:

Flawed Analysis + Predictable Bias Risks Devastating Outcomes for U.S. Affordability and Innovation

Spectrum belongs to the American people. That's why the Trump Administration opened up the entire 6 GHz band for Wi-Fi: to ensure U.S. consumers and businesses can use the spectrum we all own to enjoy more affordable connectivity, faster speeds, and more innovation.

Despite the overwhelming success of this Trump Administration policy, America's biggest cellular carriers are now promoting a bogus report created by Huawei-backed globalist trade association GSMA that is aimed at undermining this success story. Even as Big Cellular executives constantly tell Wall Street they already have more spectrum than they need, they're lobbying to take 6 GHz spectrum away from the American people and resell it back to consumers through expensive monthly cellphone plans.

GSMA's report should be acknowledged for what it is: an advocacy document paid for by stakeholders like Huawei and ZTE – state-backed Chinese companies working to undermine U.S. leadership in Wi-Fi innovation. It's no surprise that GSMA's "report" starts with the answer and works backward, using unexplained methods, a narrow, short-term dataset, and selective metrics as "evidence." Its "findings" should be weighed accordingly.

Wi-Fi in 6 GHz

- ✓ Generated $1.76 trillion in incremental economic value in just two years.
- ✓ Prioritized spectrum to reflect how Americans actually use it: 90% of U.S. mobile data runs on Wi-Fi— not cellular.

The fundamental flaws in GSMA's analysis include:

- **GSMA Measures the Wrong Things, the Wrong Way.** The report relies heavily on smartphone-based "scan" data, primarily from older Wi-Fi generations that do not operate in 6 GHz. As a result, the methodology ensures it is impossible to capture meaningful 6 GHz usage – the entire thrust of the "study."

- **GSMA's Analysis Excludes the Majority of Wi-Fi Traffic.** While the overwhelming majority of smartphone data is carried over Wi-Fi, the inverse is not true: smartphones do not drive the majority of Wi-Fi traffic. That means GSMA's smartphone scan generated data misses many of the dominant use cases driving ever-increasing value in 6 GHz: AI workloads, video streaming, gaming, and conferencing across TVs, laptops, and other connected devices.

- **GSMA's Analysis Ignores Data-Heavy Business Use.** Measuring Wi-Fi activity through smartphone scans misses the overwhelming share of business traffic, which comes from laptops, industrial systems, IoT sensors, point-of-sale equipment, and other connected devices across offices, factories, and hospitals. Enterprise Wi-Fi networks increasingly carry data-heavy AI workloads with bandwidth and latency demands that 6 GHz Wi-Fi is uniquely suited to handle, especially in device-dense environments. It is no surprise that Cisco's recent "State of Wireless" Report cited a steep ramp in use of Wi-Fi 7 technology by enterprises. In fact, in the second half of 2025 alone Wi-Fi 6E and 7 access point deployments increased 23% across Cisco's five million networks.

- **GSMA's Indoor Usage Findings Make the Case for Additional Spectrum for Wi-Fi – Not High Power Cellular.** The GSMA report notes that much mobile usage occurs indoors, an observation that only reinforces the importance of Wi-Fi. Wi-Fi is optimized for indoor environments, where most data consumption occurs, including as much as 90% of mobile data.

- **The GSMA Report is a Limited, Non-Representative, Snapshot.** GSMA's report interprets "scans" of data (without detailing its methodology) conducted within the limited geographic reach of just 10 urban areas, introducing unknown bias and unmeasurable bias. This limited snapshot does not tell you much about data tonnage and utilization, medium-term home-router replacement cycles, enterprise deployment timing, school and venue upgrades, managed Wi-Fi rollouts, or future Wi-Fi 7 channel use- information that would have been included in any serious analysis.

GSMA has some explaining to do.

GSMA Myth	*Fact*
✗ GSMA's claim that the Wi-Fi community will deploy three 320 MHz-wide channels at 6 GHz is simply false.	✓ The Wi-Fi technologies using 6 GHz enable networks to use channel sizes of 20, 40, 80, 160 or 320 MHz wide – depending on the work that the network is doing. Wi-Fi does not strand spectrum at 6 GHz.
✗ GSMA makes a wildly inflated claim that cellular data usage grew 32% year over year.	✓ In fact, mobile data growth has been in steep decline since 2018, and for North America was projected to be just 12% in 2025, according to Ericsson.

The Bottom Line:

U.S. spectrum policy should be driven by long-term value for the American people – not short-term narratives drive by foreign stakeholders. Instead of allowing monopolist cellphone providers to hoard even more spectrum for themselves, lawmakers should dismiss this Huawei-funded 'study' and ensure American policies continue to benefit the American people.