

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 24, 2016

The Honorable Tom Wheeler, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

As the sponsors of the Wi-Fi Innovation Act, we have long supported efforts to meet the wireless needs of consumers by freeing up underutilized spectrum to maximize unlicensed use in the 5.9 GHz band. Just last month an industry report indicated that Americans consumed a record 9.6 trillion megabits of data in 2015, more than doubling the amount of data used in 2014. The demand for wireless spectrum cannot be understated, which is why we write to applaud your efforts to set further timelines and guidelines to ensure a robust spectrum testing process which will determine whether and how spectrum in this band can safely and efficiently be shared between incumbent users and unlicensed uses such as Wi-Fi.

Congress, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and the Department of Transportation must work together with industry to help meet this demand, while also ensuring that the transportation technologies utilizing this band can operate safely when such technology is deployed in the future. The public notice recently issued by the Commission sets forth clear guidelines to test prototype devices and most importantly, includes deadlines to complete testing by early 2017. We strongly encourage you to adhere to these timelines.


The 5.9 GHz band represents a unique opportunity to maximize the efficient use of a valuable resource. The FCC, along with relevant public and private sector stakeholders must seize this opportunity to conduct testing and find solutions to interference now. We urge the FCC to proceed expeditiously with collaborative testing to determine how unlicensed devices can coexist with existing users of the band. We are confident the FCC can identify and successfully resolve any potential interference issues through thorough analysis and testing, and we hope this process will ultimately unleash innovation, spur the economy, and expand Wi-Fi while protecting safety-of-life transportation systems. We commend Commissioners O'Reilly and Rosenworcel for their bipartisan leadership on this issue and their commitment to moving this process forward.

Thank you for your continued work and attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you to address the spectrum crunch and expand spectrum availability to support the growing wireless needs of consumers.

Sincerely,



Senator Marco Rubio



Senator Cory A. Booker



Representative Darrell Issa



Representative Doris Matsui



Representative Bob Latta



Representative Anna Eshoo