



September 12, 2023

5G Americas
1750 112th Avenue N.E.
Suite B220
Bellevue, WA 98004
www.5gamericas.org/

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Chair
Energy and Commerce Committee

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Ranking Member
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.,
Ranking Member
Energy and Commerce Committee

United States Senate
254 Russell Senate Building
Washington DC, 20510

United States House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 2051

Dear Commerce Leaders:

5G Americas is a trade association comprised of leading mobile operators and vendors promoting 5G and beyond throughout the Americas.

Thank you for your focus on the critical issue of renewing the Federal Communications Commission's spectrum auction authority. FCC auction authority has contributed over \$230 Billion to the U.S. Treasury and for thirty years the FCC has efficiently assigned mutually-exclusive spectrum to those providers that most value it to deliver important wireless services to the American public. The wireless industry enables 4.5 million American jobs and contributes roughly \$825 Billion per year to the U.S. economy.¹ Our final regional preparation meeting for the World Radiocommunication Conference ("WRC"), which will take place late Fall, concluded earlier this month in Ottawa, Canada. The U.S. participated in these regional discussions on a couple of broadband and other wireless proposals in our regional body, the Organization of American States' Commission on International Telecommunications (CITEL). The likelihood of these proposals gaining broader support at the WRC in November will be decreased if Congress does not restore the FCC's spectrum auction authority.

Accordingly, 5G Americas urges you to restore that authority this month. Following the other regional WRC preparatory final meetings, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) will host an Inter-Regional meeting September 27-28th. As you know, the deadline under

¹ U.S. Wireless Industry, Powered by Licensed Spectrum, Contributes \$825 Billion to America's Economy Annually, According to New Report, CTIA, (December 7, 2022), <https://www.ctia.org/news/u-s-wireless-industry-powered-by-licensed-spectrum-contributes-825-billion-to-americas-economy-annually-according-to-new-report>.

the Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act of 2021 (IIJA) requiring the Department of Commerce to determine which frequencies within 3.1 – 3.45 GHz could be made available for licensed, flexible use, following the Department of Defense's studying the band, has passed. The renewal of auction authority *now* should not impact DOD's determination. There is therefore no need to wait till the Commerce Department's determination before renewing the FCC's authority. And there is every reason to renew it before the Inter-Regional meeting, so the U.S.' outreach with its international counterparts will have more credence as global WRC preparation intensifies over the Fall.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Pearson".

Chris Pearson
President
5G Americas