



NEWS

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See *MCI v. FCC*, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

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STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER AJIT PAI ON COMMENCEMENT OF PROCESS TO AUCTION 1755–1780 MHz BAND

Just last week, in my testimony before the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, I urged the FCC to “commence the notification-and-auction process now to preserve our ability to auction the 1755–1780 MHz spectrum paired with the 2155–2180 MHz spectrum.”¹ Today we have done just that.

I applaud Chairman Genachowski for notifying the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) at the U.S. Department of Commerce that the FCC “plans to commence the auction of licenses in the 1695–1710 MHz band and the 1755–1780 MHz band as early as September 2014.”² This is the first step in what will be an important process, and I look forward to working with my FCC colleagues, NTIA, and other stakeholders to help American consumers and the economy benefit from this spectrum as quickly as possible. In particular, I continue to believe that we should aim to clear and reallocate the 1755–1780 MHz band rather than forcing federal users and commercial operators to undertake the complicated, untested task of spectrum sharing.

¹ Testimony of Commissioner Ajit Pai, Hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, “Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission” at 2–3 (Mar. 12, 2013), *available at* <http://go.usa.gov/2Vj3>.

² Letter from Julius Genachowski, Chairman, FCC, to Lawrence E. Strickling, Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information, U.S. Department of Commerce, at 1 (March 20, 2013), *available at* <http://go.usa.gov/2VR5>.