



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

February 28, 2014

The Honorable Ben Ray Luján
U.S. House of Representatives
2446 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Luján:

Thank you for your letter encouraging the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to promptly examine the possible expansion of unlicensed Wi-Fi access in the 5 GHz band. I share your recognition of the importance of making available more unlicensed spectrum, and I agree that we need to continue our collaborative efforts with government agencies and private stakeholders to resolve technical issues related to this band.

The FCC is committed to realizing the tremendous promise the 5 GHz band offers for unlicensed use, but we also remain obligated to protect incumbent users from harmful interference, pursuant to the FCC's rules. Our staff has been working with all of the stakeholders to resolve the technical challenges associated with increasing the utility of this spectrum, while also protecting incumbent, licensed users.

Following the release of NTIA's January 2013 initial study evaluating the 5350-5470 MHz and 5850-5925 MHz bands, on February 20, 2013, the FCC adopted a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* seeking comment on how to increase the utility of the existing Unlicensed National Information Infrastructure (U-NII) 5 GHz bands, as well as the technical feasibility of allowing operation of U-NII devices in the 5350-5470 MHz and 5850-5925 MHz bands.

Based on the comments received in response to the *NPRM* and the continuing collaborative efforts of the various stakeholders, we are considering acting in the near-term to enhance the utility of the spectrum that is already available for unlicensed U-NII use, while deferring final consideration of the 5350-5470 MHz and 5850-5925 MHz bands, pending ongoing technical analyses.

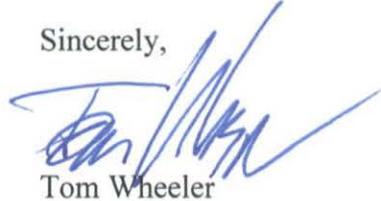
With respect to the 5850-5925 MHz band in particular, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) has established the 802.11 DSRC Coexistence Tiger Team, which is comprised of an international group of distinguished technical experts who were responsible for developing the initial Wi-Fi and Dedicated Short Range Communications (DSRC) standards used for Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). Because the IEEE initially designed this family of standards, we believe that the Tiger Team is well-suited for finding technical solutions to the spectrum sharing issues in this band. On February 7, 2014, the Tiger Team filed a letter with the FCC noting positive collaboration with the participants, and anticipating initial results

from simulations by mid-2014. Prototype tests are slated to begin later in the year, and the Tiger Team plans to explore additional coexistence techniques throughout the year.

We believe that it is important to allow all stakeholders the opportunity to develop and test technical solutions prior to adopting final rules. The FCC is coordinating closely with NTIA to monitor and evaluate the Tiger Team's work, and the FCC will include the resulting analyses as part of the record in our proceeding. Our goal is to reach an expeditious resolution to these complex matters that best provides for effective utilization of the spectrum.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Your letter will be included in the record of the *5 GHz Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* and considered during the FCC's review. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler

cc: The Honorable Anthony Foxx, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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February 28, 2014

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Eshoo:

Thank you for your letter encouraging the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to promptly examine the possible expansion of unlicensed Wi-Fi access in the 5 GHz band. I share your recognition of the importance of making available more unlicensed spectrum, and I agree that we need to continue our collaborative efforts with government agencies and private stakeholders to resolve technical issues related to this band.

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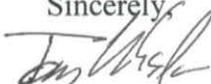
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Tom Wheeler

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U.S. Department of Transportation

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce



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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

February 28, 2014

The Honorable Doris Matsui
U.S. House of Representatives
2434 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Matsui:

Thank you for your letter encouraging the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to promptly examine the possible expansion of unlicensed Wi-Fi access in the 5 GHz band. I share your recognition of the importance of making available more unlicensed spectrum, and I agree that we need to continue our collaborative efforts with government agencies and private stakeholders to resolve technical issues related to this band.

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