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“Challenges and Opportunities in the 5 GHz Spectrum Band”
Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable Henry Waxman

1. Do you believe the technical and engineering discussions between the Wi-Fi and the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) communities are going well? What can the Administration do to support these discussions?

In August of 2013, the Regulatory Standing Committee of IEEE 802.11 created a “tiger team” comprised of interested participants from the Wi-Fi and the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) communities to exchange technical information and explore possible solutions to sharing in the 5.9 GHz band. These discussions are currently ongoing and have garnered participation by a significant number of people from within both communities. Although a couple preliminary sharing solutions have been proposed, participants from the Wi-Fi community have yet to reach consensus on a proposal. Once consensus has been achieved and prototypes are developed, field testing of the sharing technique can commence. We expect that the ITS community will be heavily involved in this field testing, which will likely occur outside of the “tiger team” process.

We welcome the continued interest and engagement of the Administration in this issue. The federal Department of Transportation (DOT) is monitoring the “tiger team” efforts. We encourage the continued involvement of DOT and welcome other federal agencies interested in the outcome of these discussions. We also appreciate that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has delayed further action on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking pending the outcome of these discussions, and encourage it to continue to do so. Finally, we appreciate that the FCC has reaffirmed that the prohibition of harmful interference under Part 15.5 of the Commission’s rules applies to any potential use of the 5.9 GHz band by unlicensed devices, and believe that this important point should continue to be reiterated publicly.