

House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
“Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission”

October 25, 2017

Questions for the Record for
FCC Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel

The Honorable Brett Guthrie

- 1. I understand that NHTSA has an open rulemaking on the matter of V2V communications and is coordinating with the Commission on whether or how to share the spectrum currently allocated to Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) in the 5.9 GHz band. Are you willing to commit to working with NHTSA and other stakeholders on this issue to ensure the band remains available for ITS use in the future, and free from in-band or out-of-band emissions from other potential users?**

Last year, the Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) initiated a rulemaking that proposed to require all light vehicles to be equipped with V2V communication technology. While this proceeding remains pending, I understand it was removed from the Office of Management and Budget’s list of regulations actively under consideration.

Nonetheless, the FCC, in close coordination with the Department of Transportation and the Department of Commerce, continues to move forward to update and refresh the record on the status of potential sharing solutions between unlicensed devices and Dedicated Short Range Communications (DSRC) systems operating under the Intelligent Transportation Service (ITS). That process includes a three-phase test plan, with collaborative testing by the FCC, the Department of Transportation, and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). Through a record refresh and vigorous—but timely—testing of prototypes, I anticipate that we can develop a pathway forward that protects DSRC safety-of-life functions while promoting innovation and expanding the unlicensed services that American consumers seek. I support these collaborative efforts, and I commit to continuing to work with NHTSA and other stakeholders on this issue.

- 2. There are critical infrastructure industries like electric utilities whose wireless needs are absolutely paramount when it comes to reliability and freedom from interference, as drastic consequences can follow when their networks are disrupted by outside users. Are you willing to work with utilities on how best to harden their networks, and is there anything you can share on work you’ve already been doing to meet their wireless reliability needs?**

Across the board, FCC policies should support reliable and resilient communications service. Moreover, the agency should be mindful of the consequences of its policies on critical infrastructure providers that rely extensively on communications for continuity of service. To this end, I have called on the FCC to study the impact of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria on network recovery and in its wake develop a plan for fixing any vulnerabilities we identify.

Moreover, I support past efforts of the FCC's Communications, Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council (CSRIC) to develop a series of best practices that promote reliable networks, as well as the Wireless Network Resiliency Cooperative Framework, which builds upon the CSRIC recommendations. Recently, the agency sought input through this council with respect to security issues for new 5G networks. I am hopeful that practical security and reliability practices will result—including ones that take into consideration the impact of these new networks on infrastructure industries dependent on communications.