

Attachment—Additional Questions for the Record

**Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Hearing on
“Our Wireless Future: Building A Comprehensive Approach to Spectrum Policy”
July 16, 2019**

Mr. Scott Bergmann, Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, CTIA

The Honorable Susan W. Brooks (R-IN)

- 1. How do CTIA and your members work with federal agencies, like the Department of Defense, to determine how we can more efficiently use spectrum to make more available to enable the growth of wireless and 5G? Is there more that Congress can do to help with this endeavor?**

Response: As Congress, the Administration, and the FCC work to craft policies to secure U.S. leadership in the next generation of wireless services, it is more critical than ever that the Congress promote policies that ensure sufficient access to spectrum for 5G. A critical component of sound spectrum policy is ensuring that federal agencies use spectrum holding in an efficient manner and that policymakers and industry work collaboratively to repurpose spectrum for commercial services. Repurposing government-held spectrum for commercial use has the dual benefit of providing a critical catalyst for our nation’s economy and also generating billions of dollars that can enable federal agencies to invest in modern, more efficient technologies.

CTIA and its member companies have a long and effective history working with federal agencies, including the Department of Defense, on vital spectrum sharing and repurposing efforts. In the early 1990s, the wireless industry worked cooperatively with federal agencies to help manage the transition of spectrum from federal use to commercial services. These initial efforts led directly to the highly successful auctions of licenses for the AWS-1 and AWS-3 spectrum. The AWS-1 auction was completed in September 2006, with \$13.7 billion raised in revenue. Similarly, the AWS-3 auction was completed in January 2015, with more than \$41 billion raised.

These auctions provided monies to affected federal agencies to allow them to relocate to other spectrum bands or update existing equipment and allowed for more efficient use of the underlying spectrum holdings. Additional funds derived from these auctions funded the Spectrum Relocation Fund (SRF) that has been used by federal agencies to look at new and innovative ways of using spectrum to fulfill their missions, with a focus on improving spectral efficiency.

In addition, the wireless industry has worked collaboratively with federal agencies to establish sharing regimes in the 3.5 GHz band. This band is heavily used for Department of Defense

(DoD) radar systems, and initial protection criteria eliminated use of this spectrum within several hundred miles of either coast of the United States. The wireless industry worked with affected federal incumbents to allow for extensive use of the 3.5 GHz band—much more than was originally seen as possible by the federal agencies.

The wireless industry is also an active participant in the Commerce Spectrum Management Advisory Committee (CSMAC) that provides advice and guidance to the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information at NTIA. This committee studies commercial and federal spectrum usage and provides recommendations to improve processes associated with encouraging spectrum efficiency and sharing. As an example of this committee's efforts, the majority of the sharing criteria and relocation planning for the AWS-3 spectrum band was done under the auspices of CSMAC.

CTIA recommends that Congress continue to focus on the transparency of how federal spectrum is being utilized. Because spectrum is a scarce resource, there is a need to ensure that it is allocated and used to achieve the highest and best use.

In particular, CTIA notes the ongoing efforts of NTIA and DoD to evaluate the feasibility of allowing commercial wireless services to access the 3100-3550 MHz band, as required by the RAY BAUM'S Act, and to engage in modeling of the interference environment for this band in preparation for its report to Congress. This band represents one of only a limited number of meaningful opportunities for the industry to access mid-band spectrum, which will be essential for 5G networks and services. We encourage Congress to exercise its oversight of these efforts so that we can achieve the goals of ensuring protection of critical government services, seeking opportunities to relocate services to other bands where possible, and facilitating the use of as much of this band for commercial 5G services as possible under technical parameters that will enable 5G to flourish.

In addition, CTIA encourages Congress to explore the potential for additional flexibility in the use of SRF funds. In the past several years, more funding of studies and planning efforts has been made available, but allowing even more use of these funds will allow federal agencies the ability to more rapidly and effectively study, use, and share their spectrum.