

**Statement for the Record of Rep. Anna G. Eshoo**

Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

*Repurposing the C-Band to Benefit All Americans*

2322 Rayburn House Office Building

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The allocation of access to finite airwaves is a core duty of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and always has been. In fact, the history of this duty traces back to the Radio Act of 1912. We should cherish this history. Since the FCC started allocating spectrum through auctions in the 1990s, our spectrum auctions have become the envy of the world. This history and our present reality are based on the idea that the airwaves belong to the American people. The owners of this spectrum, the American people, decided through their Representatives to allow for auctions that benefit the public interest.

Like many public policy questions, one important lens through which we should view the questions in front of us today is that of economics. There are tens of billions of dollars at stake here—up to \$60 billion, according to current estimates. This is a lot of money. It's enough to pay for nearly every American to have access to broadband and Next Generation 9-1-1. The FCC estimates that \$40 billion in broadband infrastructure investment would lead to 98 percent of Americans having access to broadband speeds. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration estimate that deploying Next Generation 9-1-1 countrywide costs between \$9.5 and \$12.7 billion.

I appreciate the novel ideas proposed for clearing the C-Band, and I commend the FCC for taking actions to expediently make spectrum available for 5G. While the auction process can always be improved, I'm convinced that the public interest is best served by holding a public auction of C-Band spectrum. I look forward to a productive hearing.