

Opening Statement of Representative Bill Johnson
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
“Repurposing the C-Band to Benefit all Americans”

October 29, 2019

As Prepared for Delivery

Thank you, Chairman Doyle and Ranking Member Latta for holding today’s important hearing.

The question is not whether this important mid-band spectrum should be repurposed, but what process the FCC should use to transition C-band spectrum from satellite to terrestrial wireless broadband use – enabling 5G services and – importantly – greater broadband deployment to rural areas.

As a lead sponsor of the C-BAND Act, it’s clear that I prefer that the FCC conduct a public auction. In my view, this would enable a transparent and competitive process, and ensure the taxpayers are the primary beneficiary from any auction or sale of this national resource.

I’m hopeful that today’s hearing will provide a thoughtful discussion on all the FCC’s options for repurposing C-band spectrum. I am particularly interested in hearing what resources Congress could provide the FCC to best enable a fast and efficient release of this vital mid-band spectrum, in addition to how best this spectrum can be used to meet the needs of rural America. It’s important that we get this right; a timely and competitive process is critical, as is the accountability and transparency provided by an FCC-led effort.

Thank you, and I yield back.