

**Opening Statement of Republican Leader Robert E. Latta
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
"Repurposing the C-Band to Benefit all Americans"
October 29, 2019**

As Prepared for Delivery

Welcome to the second subcommittee hearing on C-Band spectrum and thank you to the witness panel for being here today.

The FCC has signaled an intent to show progress on C-Band in the near future, which will make critical mid-band spectrum available for 5G.

However, a debate lingers on the best path forward to serve the public interest and encourage U.S.

leadership in 5G. In a world with more innovation and a growing appetite for wireless technology, the

equation for making new spectrum available has become increasingly challenging. While bipartisan, market-based principles have led us well over the last two decades, it's important not to rest as other countries continue to free additional spectrum for commercial use. Taking bold steps have led us to success in the past like we saw in 2012 when we pioneered a new, "reverse" auction – the fruits of which are now being deployed in low-band, 5G spectrum.

I'm pleased to have worked with Chairman Doyle on the SHARE Act, to facilitate a system for federal users on how to better share their spectrum

and thus optimize its use, but there is an impending need to clear more spectrum now. That brings us to the topic today – how to clear C-Band spectrum for 5G deployment from willing sellers. Without question, when it comes to more technically, legally, and economically complex spectrum bands like this one, we should be encouraging industry and the FCC to work together on innovative approaches to spectrum management that serve the public interest.

In today's legislative hearing we will discuss a bipartisan proposal on this important swath of spectrum, but I understand there are other views on this committee from both sides of the aisle. To be

clear, all these views have merit, and each provides an important stakeholder perspective from the terms of current occupants and users of C-Band to how to best expedite its clearing so that it may be deployed quickly.

As our witnesses know, and will hopefully help us better understand today, there are several complex issues that present challenges to clearing C-Band spectrum for mobile terrestrial wireless service. **We must consider**

- **the technical steps necessary to protect incumbent programming services,**

- **how best to get cleared spectrum into the hands of those who will deploy it,**
- **how to ensure a fair and transparent process,**
- **how to promote participation of small, rural users, and**
- **how to avoid costly court challenges that could put a strain on U.S. 5G leadership at a time when our economic and national security interests are in the balance.**

Our main objectives – no matter the approach – should be to get this spectrum to market quickly, fairly, and transparently.

With few legislative days left this year, time is running out to legislate the type of detail that was necessary to unlock the spectrum identified in the 2012 Spectrum Act. However, there is clearly a role for Congress to play in ensuring the public interest is served through effective spectrum policy and its related revenues. I look forward to hearing more about those issues from the panel.

Thank you again to our witnesses for being here, and with that I yield the remainder of my time to my friend from Ohio, Mr. Johnson.