

Attachment—Additional Questions for the Record

**Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Hearing on
“Repurposing the C-Band to Benefit all Americans”
October 29, 2019**

Mr. James B. Frownfelter, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, ABS

The Honorable Adam Kinzinger (R-IL)

- 1. Mr. Frownfelter, I appreciate the perspective you offered through your testimony, and I think the Commission should carefully consider the submitted comments of the Small Satellite Operators—and really, all the stakeholder submissions—as they proceed. However, like the CBA’s plan, the SSO plan lacks some definition with respect to revenues or other payments to the Treasury.**
 - a. Would you like to take this opportunity to clarify the position of the SSOs? Is there either a payment “floor” or minimum percentage that the SSOs feel should be directed to the Treasury?**

Response: The SSOs believe it is critical that (1) 300 MHz of C-band spectrum be quickly repurposed for 5G through an FCC-run auction; (2) taxpayers benefit from the proceeds of the transition through ESO incentives and a substantial payment to the U.S. Treasury; and (3) satellite operators be fairly compensated for the loss of 60% of their rights to use C-band spectrum, because if satellite operators can have their spectrum use rights taken without just compensation, so can the operator of any wireless network – and this would undermine all future investments in wireless infrastructure.

The SSOs have proposed from the beginning of this process that taxpayers be substantially compensated both indirectly through incentives paid to U.S. Earth Station Operators (ESOs) and directly through a substantial payment to the U.S. Treasury.

The CBA has estimated that there are 35,000 U.S. Earth Station Operators affected by the C-band transition, the vast majority of which provide telecommunication connectivity to our rural communities. By incentivizing each licensed ESO to effect the transition of carriers currently utilizing the lower C-band spectrum in as timely a manner as possible, Congress can achieve two objectives: 1) accelerate the transition to roll out 5G services as quickly as possible, and 2) inject much needed funding directly into U.S. rural communities that each ESO can deploy to bridge the U.S. digital divide.

Specifically, the SSOs believe that the ESOs and the US Treasury payments should equal approximately 50% of the proceeds from the auction.

The Honorable Bill Flores (R-TX)

1. The next generation of satellite providers such as Starlink or ABS-3A will bring a whole new set of innovative services to the telecommunication industry. It will also, however, bring along a whole new set of challenges in the use of our spectrum. As these technologies begin to enter the marketplace, the FCC will need a flexible regulatory regime that facilitates innovation and the continued creation of new services.

a. How important will it be for the FCC to find ways to cut down on the time required to auction spectrum?

Response: The SSOs believe that, generally speaking, the Commission has done a remarkably good job running spectrum auctions. But, of course, the faster it can conduct an auction the faster spectrum can be repurposed and new licenses issued. As new technologies and innovative uses of spectrum proliferate, speed becomes even more important – and Congress should make sure the Commission has the flexibility and resources it needs to move quickly.