

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. Ross J. Lieberman, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs,
ACA Connects—America’s Communications Association**

The Honorable Adam Kinzinger (R-IL)

1. Mr. Lieberman, your testimony describes a number of concerns relating to the repurposing of the C-Band. Specifically, you state:

“Reducing the supply of C-Band spectrum ... will diminish the band as a pipeline for video delivery. It will become *less reliable, less capable, and less affordable*... Permitting...use [of] repurposed C-Band for 5G services will introduce new risks that video programming...will *suffer interference*,” (emphasis added).

As a point of clarification:

- a. When you use the term “interference”, did you mean to convey the term “*harmful interference*,” which is the legal standard to which the FCC must be held?

Response: I intended the term interference to include both harmful interference in the same band and harmful out-of-band emissions from an adjacent band. In both cases, the result can be to seriously degrade, obstruct, or repeatedly interrupt the reception of video programming by cable operators. The FCC has the authority and responsibility to cure both problems.

- b. In your opinion, how likely is it that the engineers at the FCC would approve a reallocation that would allow for harmful interference?

Response: There are many variables in play that would complicate the FCC’s efforts to implement a C-Band reallocation plan that accommodates all current C-Band incumbents, including cable operators, with protection from harmful interference and out-of-band emissions. As an initial matter, C-Band earth station filters capable of blocking out 5G licensees’ signals have not been developed, let alone tested in the field. Even when these hurdles are cleared, the FCC will need to set power limits and other service rules for the reallocated band. In doing so, the FCC will face the difficult task of balancing incumbents’ demands for strong interference protections with wireless carriers’ desire for more permissive rules that allow maximum 5G use of the band. And even if the FCC’s rules end up striking that balance perfectly, they cannot

eliminate the risk that actual 5G operations in the C-Band will cause harmful interference to cable operators' reception of video programming. If and when such interference occurs, the operator may have limited recourse; it may be difficult to prove or even identify the offending party, and the latter may in fact be unaware that it is causing the problem. Though we would expect such incidents to get resolved in time, with or without FCC intervention, even brief disruptions of video programming create severe annoyances for customers, which threaten cable operators' bottom line.

In light of these concerns, among others discussed in my written testimony, ACA Connects has urged the FCC to implement a C-Band transition plan that gives cable operators the flexibility to use relocation funds to migrate from the C-Band to fiber-based video distribution alternatives rather than repack within the band.