



ENSURING US LEADERSHIP IN 5G

February 8, 2023

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
U.S. House of Representatives
Chair
Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Frank Pallone
U.S. House of Representatives
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Bob Latta
U.S. House of Representatives
Chair
Subcommittee on Communications
and Technology

The Honorable Doris Matsui
U.S. House of Representatives
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Communications
and Technology

To the Members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee:

Thank you for holding today's hearing entitled, "Liftoff: Unleashing Innovation in Satellite Communications Technologies." The 5G for 12 GHz Coalition is a collection of 37 prominent public interest groups, trade associations, and companies that are united in urging the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to act swiftly to modernize decades-old rules and allow the critical capacity of the 12.2-12.7 GHz spectrum band to be used for 5G and fixed wireless services.

The Coalition understands that the focus of today's hearing is strictly on satellite technologies and the proposed satellite bills. Nevertheless, SpaceX has elected to raise unfounded concerns over the FCC's ongoing 12 GHz band proceeding in its testimony. SpaceX's testimony yet again does not accurately portray the opportunity of the 12 GHz band, and the Coalition believes it is necessary to set the record straight for the Committee.

First, by unlocking 500 MHz of mid-band spectrum and opening up the 12 GHz band to terrestrial services, we can narrow the digital divide for many constituencies, including for students who will be able to achieve more in the classroom, doctors and patients who will have access to critical health care services, and those living in rural areas and on tribal lands who will be able to get online.

Second, allowing the 12 GHz band to be used for terrestrial services, including 5G, not only provides more opportunities, greater competition, and consumer choice here at home, but it also allows the United States to remain a technology leader on the global stage. Though the FCC has taken positive action to bolster connectivity for consumers and open more mid-band spectrum, the United States is still losing the 5G race to China, ranking last among 13 major wireless markets. The FCC has developed a complete record that justifies opening the 12 GHz band immediately which would propel the U.S. into a global leader for available 5G mid-band spectrum, eclipsing China's spectrum deployment and helping cement America's global competitiveness. Moreover, action by the FCC now would

represent a coordinated and complementary initiative to the upcoming NTIA broadband grants.

Finally, the Coalition believes—and has proven based on sound engineering from respected experts—that sharing of the 12 GHz band between non-geostationary satellite services (NGSOs) and terrestrial wireless services is eminently possible. Indeed, the goal of this entire effort is to bring more Americans online without further delay by connecting them to next generation technologies while protecting existing services from harmful interference. It should be noted that SpaceX has access to 15,000 MHz of other spectrum (that it received at no cost) that it is authorized to use besides the 12 GHz band. SpaceX wants to monopolize the 12 GHz band and deprive the American public of greater connectivity from innovative terrestrial services. The Coalition, in contrast, believes that the 12 GHz band can and should be shared, creating a win-win-win for consumers, satellite operators, and providers that intend to use the band to deliver much-needed broadband and wireless services.

In sum, the 12 GHz band is a once in a generation opportunity to improve the lives of millions of Americans and set the country on the path to global telecommunications leadership—if we act today. We urge the Committee to encourage the FCC to move forward with its rulemaking so the United States can take advantage of this opportunity.

Sincerely,

The 5G for 12 GHz Coalition