

Response to Additional Question For the Record From the Honorable Anna G. Eshoo

Professor Monisha Ghosh

Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Notre Dame.

Policy Outreach Director, SpectrumX.

Research Professor (Adjunct), University of Chicago.

Joint Appointment, Argonne National Laboratory.

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Question

Each witness at the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology hearing entitled, "Defending America's Wireless Leadership" on March 10, 2023, testified to the increasing demand for spectrum and the balance that must be made between federal and commercial uses. The Departments of Commerce and Defense have agreed to a process that allows for an ongoing and thorough study examining the potential impact of opening 3 GHz spectrum to commercial use on existing Federal missions.

For the record, please indicate whether you support the position of the Department of Commerce and Department of Defense regarding spectrum auction authority and spectrum availability as described in the enclosed letter dated March 5, 2023.

Response

I support the position of the Department of Commerce and Department of Defense regarding spectrum auction authority and spectrum availability as described in the enclosed letter dated March 5, 2023.

As stated in my testimony, I am an active member of the National Spectrum Consortium's (NSC) Partnering to Advance Trusted and Holistic Spectrum Solutions (PATHSS) Task Group which partners with the Department of Defense (DoD) to explore efficient sharing solutions that will make more mid-band spectrum, specifically in 3.1 – 3.45 GHz, available for commercial wireless applications. I have submitted proposals on potential sharing schemes and am engaged with discussions on the technical analyses being undertaken. I remain confident that a sharing solution that enables commercial wireless to utilize the spectrum without impacting crucial DoD operations in the band can be developed in a timely fashion, with the collaboration and cooperation of FCC, NTIA, industry and academia. My technical opinion is that sharing mechanisms using low or medium power is the best way to proceed in this band: this will allow DoD operations to continue without disruption while enabling innovations in wireless, similar to the CBRS band. High-power, exclusive use of spectrum is not the only way to drive innovations in wireless. In fact, the opposite: cellular networks today are optimized for one application: mobile broadband to consumers, while private networks in CBRS are serving a wide variety of use cases.