



AIRSPAN NETWORKS INC

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April 21, 2021

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Doyle
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Communications &
Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
1314 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Latta
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Communications &
Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

I write on behalf of Airspan Networks, the only U.S.-based, 5G end-to-end Open Radio Access Network (“RAN”) and software provider, in support of your bipartisan efforts to examine how the United States can maintain its global leadership in wireless technology while enhancing the security of American networks. This topic could not be more timely.

As you are well aware, our country’s wireless future depends upon American leadership in technology and standards development, as well as our collective ability to maintain a secure supply chain. Airspan is well positioned to play a critical role in meeting both of these objectives and is eager to contribute. In particular, the company’s open architecture is uniquely suited to address supply chain challenges because it offers secure software and hardware solutions for 5G network deployments that are developed and manufactured in the United States. Currently, Airspan’s product portfolio includes 150 patents with service to over 1,000 customers,

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including Motorola Solutions, Cisco, and numerous Carriers and Wireless Internet Service Providers.

Airspan recognizes that a successful pathway to 5G innovation in this country must begin with security. Historically, the biggest obstacle for U.S. carriers, particularly small carriers, has been identifying new, secure, and cost-effective equipment suppliers. Traditional RAN equipment is expensive and largely inoperable with any other vendors, which has allowed market power to rest with just a handful of large, foreign-based companies. And one of these companies, Huawei, presents a significant security risk given its ties to the Chinese government. Airspan's Open RAN architecture offers a solution to these national security concerns by disaggregating software and hardware using open interfaces and creating a multi-vendor architecture that is 100-percent interoperable. Open RAN also simplifies network management by relying on cloud-native software utilizing off-the-shelf hardware. This combination of factors is what ultimately drives innovation, enhances security, increases performance, and lowers cost.

Airspan appreciates past and ongoing bipartisan efforts to provide funding and other support to promote Open RAN solutions. Such efforts will encourage vendor diversity throughout the entire supply chain and allow for more rapid delivery of 5G, including in rural America. As an initial step, Airspan respectfully urges Congress to focus on efforts to accelerate broadband deployment, such as funding at-scale Open RAN proof of concepts in towns, cities, and rural areas throughout the country. Failure to take such action risks having the United States fall behind our adversaries, as stakeholders across the world are turning to Open RAN as a viable delivery option for high-speed broadband connectivity. The sooner we can provide an affordable, reliable, and secure internet connection to every American household, the safer this country will be from those who seek to harm it.

Thank you for your continued leadership on these issues. Airspan stands ready to provide any assistance needed as Congress moves forward to ensure that the United States remains the world leader in providing innovative and secure wireless technologies and services.

Sincerely,

Eric D. Stonestrom
President & Chief Executive Officer