



September 30, 2013

The Honorable Greg Walden
U.S. House of Representatives
2182 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
U.S. House of Representatives
241 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Walden and Ranking Member Eshoo:

The Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), the leading trade association for global manufacturers, vendors, and suppliers of information and communications technology, wishes to thank you for holding a hearing this week to examine 5 GHz spectrum issues.

TIA strongly supports enabling expanded unlicensed access to all 5 GHz U-NII bands, as proposed in the FCC's NPRM. By making available a large swath of contiguous spectrum to unlicensed use on a technology-neutral basis, the Commission can facilitate the provisioning of the multi-gigabit data rates that are needed to support advanced applications, as well as optimize 5 GHz band channel arrangement. This will enable the U.S. to meet escalating demand for unlicensed spectrum and continue to lead the world in unlicensed services.

If the FCC enables expanded access to 5 GHz bands for unlicensed use, technologies have already been introduced that can achieve unprecedented data rates based on the wider channel bandwidths that could be available at 5 GHz. One such technology is the next generation of Wi-Fi (IEEE 802.11ac), which is designed to take maximum advantage of the large contiguous bands that would be created by designation of the 5350-5470 MHz and 5850-5925 MHz bands for unlicensed use. Allowing unlicensed use of 5 GHz spectrum could also provide capacity for data offload by heterogeneous networks, particularly in urban areas, airports, stadiums and similar areas where congestion is a growing concern.

Moreover, the expansion of unlicensed broadband services should be accomplished in a manner that affords suitable protections for current users, including intelligent transportation systems (ITS). The comments filed in the FCC's open rulemaking proceeding reflect significant consensus on many technical subjects, and the agency is well-positioned to develop rules that open 5 GHz bands for unlicensed broadband without causing harmful interference to current users. TIA is confident that the relevant agencies, the ICT industry, and all incumbents (including ITS) can work together in a timely manner to find appropriate sharing solutions for all 5 GHz U-NII bands, and we stand ready to engage in that process.

Thank you again for holding a hearing on this important issue. For more information, please contact Danielle Coffey at (703)-907-7734 or by email at dcoffey@tiaonline.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Grant E. Seiffert'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Grant E. Seiffert
President