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## **Watchdog Praises FCC for Efforts to Open ‘L-Band’ for 5G Use**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Today, the Taxpayers Protection Alliance (TPA) praised the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and FCC Chairman Ajit Pai for supporting efforts to open the critical “L-Band” segment of mid-band spectrum for 5G use. Chairman Pai, and his fellow commissioners, are poised to approve a draft order that would allow private industry to develop a low-power terrestrial nationwide network in the L-Band with strong guardrails in place to deter interference. Federal agencies such as the Department of Defense (DoD) have long warned the agency that these efforts would compromise U.S. military operations, but the FCC has found such claims to be unsupported.

TPA President David Williams praised the FCC, noting, “at this difficult time, millions of Americans are using more bandwidth than ever before and placing a considerable strain on networks nationwide. The FCC’s support for allocating more spectrum for 5G internet services will allow providers to expand the digital domain and keep Americans connected. Freeing the L-Band for internet use will also allow providers to build resilient 5G networks capable of supporting lightning-fast digital services and cutting-edge applications such as telemedicine operations and internet-of-things applications. The FCC and Chairman Pai are taking significant steps to keep the internet up-and-running and invest in future digital capabilities.”

Williams continued: “As was the case in previous proceedings, federal agencies – including the DoD – are claiming that allowing the L-Band to be used for 5G services will compromise its ability to keep America safe. The Pentagon is even warning that Americans will face diminished access to Global Positioning System (GPS) services as a result of proposed spectrum allocations. But there’s no evidence whatsoever for the DoD’s charges and the FCC has put forward ample evidence that 5G and applications such as GPS can exist in harmony. Unfortunately, the Pentagon’s concerns are just the latest in a longstanding pattern in spectrum proceedings of federal agencies claiming without evidence that spectrum use by internet providers will harm government initiatives. The FCC has rightly weighed all the evidence and will continue to assess potential harms to critical services such as GPS. But the evidence is clear that spectrum use for 5G will bolster, not harm, the digital domain.”

Williams concluded: “Since 2017, the FCC has taken important steps to reduce hurdles to internet access and paved the way for 5G networks across America which will close the digital divide and protect taxpayers. The agency has laudably reduced fees for 5G device deployments and streamlined onerous regulations that buried the digital domain in a sea of red tape. Freeing up the L-Band for 5G use is the next, critical step in this process. The FCC deserves praise for making this sliver of spectrum available for next-generation services and weighing all the evidence. We thank the FCC for their principled leadership in keeping the country connected and ensuring a bright digital future.”

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*Taxpayers Protection Alliance (TPA) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to educating the public through the research, analysis and dissemination of information on the government's effects on the economy.*

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