



For Immediate Release
November 20, 2019

Contact: Grace Morgan
(202-855-4380)

Watchdog Praises FCC Chairman Pai for 5.9 Spectrum Band Announcement

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, the Taxpayers Protection Alliance (TPA) praised Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Ajit Pai for his commitment to opening up a significant portion of the 5.9 GHz band of radio spectrum for unlicensed Wi-Fi use. Chairman Pai announced today that the lower 45 megahertz of the spectrum band would be made available for internet users across the country, while the remaining 20 megahertz would be devoted to cutting-edge vehicle communications technologies.

TPA President David Williams praised Chairman Pai's announcement, stating, "this shift in policy is a tremendous boon to millions of Americans underserved in the digital domain. Too many households and businesses are left out of the internet ecosystem as spectrum enabling high-speed connections becomes increasingly-difficult to find. The 5.9 spectrum space allows for a critical opportunity to create and enhance internet connections across the country, but this bandwidth will remain underutilized absent the right set of policies. Chairman Pai signaled today that the commission will utilize all the tools at its disposal to bring lightning-fast internet to all Americans."

Williams continued: "The announcement is a culmination of a long-standing dispute between various government agencies on how best to allocate this critical segment of spectrum. Transportation officials were keen on devoting 5.9 spectrum to vehicle communications technologies, despite the lackluster progress of services such as Dedicated Short Range Communications. The FCC is not slamming the door shut to these technologies and is in fact enshrining them in the upper 20 megahertz of the 5.9 spectrum. Good governance involves striking a balance between competing critical uses of valuable resources, and Chairman Pai has shown that he is willing to work with officials from across the government to deliver Wi-Fi to Americans while preserving communications technologies."

Williams concluded: "Today marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter in the saga of spectrum allocation. Chairman Pai has chosen to move forward with a spectrum sharing approach that will better millions of lives while opening the door for vehicle communication innovation. The 5.9 band of spectrum may be woefully underutilized now, but this announcement makes clear that opportunities abound for making the best use of this bandwidth."

#

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.

**Taxpayers Protection Alliance, 1401 K Street, NW., Suite 502, Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 930-1716
www.protectingtaxpayers.org**