



February 4, 2019

The Honorable Roger Wicker
United States Senate
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senate
425 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Wicker and Ranking Member Cantwell:

The Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), the leading trade association for global manufacturers, vendors, and suppliers of information and communications technology (ICT), thanks you for holding a hearing this week to examine U.S. leadership in the global race to 5G. As the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation considers these issues, we urge you to consider the following priorities:

I. Broadband Infrastructure Deployment

Removing regulatory obstacles. Significant steps relating to wireless infrastructure siting were accomplished in the MOBILE NOW Act, particularly regarding federal lands and facilities, but more remains to be done. 5G is capable of providing robust broadband service, but only if it can be deployed quickly and economically. Companies have faced numerous obstacles at all levels of government, including complete moratoria, zoning rules and arbitrary conditions, differential treatment of new entrants, delays, exorbitant site inspection fees, and unsustainable annual rents.

The FCC took important steps to address some of those issues in 2018, but the agency's orders are currently being challenged in court. In the 116th Congress, the Committee should therefore consider targeted additional measures to enable more rapid facility siting. For example, TIA strongly supports the **STREAMLINE Small Cell Deployment Act** (S. 3157, 115th Congress).

Broadband investment. Congress should include substantial broadband funding in any potential infrastructure package. Specifically, we urge that any infrastructure package should include dedicated funding to address each of the following challenges:

- Reaching unserved areas with the FCC minimum level of 25 Mbps down / 3 Mbps up;
- Increasing service to underserved areas with 100 Mbps / 10 Mbps; and
- Maintaining U.S. long-term preparedness with service of 1 Gbps / 50 Mbps.

II. Spectrum Policy

Access to more spectrum is essential for maintaining U.S. leadership in the global race to 5G. The previous Congress took important steps, including a statutory fix that enabled auctions to resume and providing additional funding to complete the 600 MHz transition. In the 116th Congress, the Committee should continue supporting efforts to make more spectrum available and to improve federal spectrum management. For example, Congress should encourage the FCC to continue its efforts to allocate additional spectrum for licensed and unlicensed 5G

services. In addition, Congress should ensure that agencies have adequate flexible-use funding for spectrum transitions, and that NTIA is robustly staffed to fulfill its vital coordination role.

Meanwhile, Congress should ensure that a portion of all future auction revenue is re-invested into spectrum research and development. R&D is the “seed corn” that has enabled the wireless revolution and brought significant direct profits to taxpayers from auction proceeds. Moreover, other countries are seeking to claim the mantle of ICT technology leadership, so Congress should consider incentivizing the participation of more U.S. companies in global standardization efforts.

III. ICT Supply Chain Security

Specific suppliers of concern. As 5G begins to deploy in earnest, TIA strongly supports efforts to secure U.S. networks by addressing specific suppliers that have been identified as national security risks by Congress or by agencies with appropriate expertise. These suppliers include Huawei, ZTE, and Kaspersky Lab among others. For example, TIA has urged the FCC to move forward on its USF supply chain proceeding based on the following principles:

- The FCC should act promptly and clearly to provide certainty to all stakeholders;
- Actions should target specific suppliers identified as national security risks, not supply chain risk management in general;
- Determinations regarding specific suppliers should be made by agencies with appropriate national security expertise;
- Rules should be narrowly-tailored, by (for example) focusing on logic-enabled components and avoiding blanket country-of-origin bans;
- Reasonable steps are appropriate to assist affected parties with transition needs arising from the replacement of equipment from covered suppliers; and
- Interagency coordination is essential to avoid overlapping lists or requirements, and to ensure that the problem is being appropriately addressed from all angles.

ICT supply chain risk management. TIA and our member companies are deeply committed to improving ICT supply chain risk management. Through TIA’s role on the executive committee of the DHS ICT Supply Chain Risk Management Task Force, engagement in efforts such as the interagency botnet reduction initiative, and other efforts, the ICT industry is working with government to develop effective processes and a long-term strategy to combat threats. This kind of cross-sector, public-private partnership is critical to enhancing ICT supply chain security going forward.

Thank you again for holding this important hearing. For more information, please contact me at 703-907-7707 or by email at crogers@tiaonline.org.

Best regards,



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Cc: Senate Commerce Committee Members