



5G Action Now

February 27, 2020

Re: The National Security Importance of Winning the Race to 5G

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C., 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

The fifth generation of wireless technology, known as 5G, has the potential to not only change the way we live our lives, but fundamentally impact our country's national security for generations to come. The first country to deploy 5G will control the global communications network and have a national security edge on the rest of the world. China is committed to achieving digital dominance, and it is time America takes action, supports Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Ajit Pai's plan to move forward, and takes the first step in winning the 5G race against China.

Right now, we're falling behind China in this race. Since 2015, China has outspent the U.S. by roughly [\\$24 billion](#) in 5G infrastructure. As a result, at one point in 2017, China built more 5G base stations in a [three-month span](#) than the U.S. did in three years. In total, China has built about [12 times more](#) 5G base stations than the U.S.

China has also been investing in Huawei, their largest telecommunications company, to corner the 5G market and undercut international competitors. China is reported to have given Huawei as much as [\\$75 billion](#) in subsidies to spread Huawei's influence all around the world. Huawei, serving as an arm of the Chinese Communist Party, now operates in more than [170 countries](#). Most recently, the United Kingdom granted Huawei access to part of its 5G infrastructure, compromising our ability to share information with them and straining our two countries' relationship. Many more of our allies, including France and Canada, are considering the same dangerous decision.

Just last week, Huawei and two of its U.S. subsidiaries were [charged with racketeering conspiracy and conspiracy to steal trade secrets](#) in a federal indictment. This indictment builds on allegations the U.S. leveled against the communications giant last year, when Huawei was charged with bank fraud, obstruction of justice, and theft of technology.

Last year, in response to Huawei's many charges, FBI Director Christopher Wray [stated](#), "As you can tell from the number and magnitude of charges, Huawei and its senior executives repeatedly refused to respect the laws of the United States and standard international business practices." Later that same year, Attorney General Barr wrote a letter to Chairman Pai that [stated](#), "In sum, their own track record, as well as the practices of the Chinese government, demonstrate that Huawei and ZTE cannot be trusted." Chairman Pai has demonstrated a clear understanding of the significance of this issue, and it is crucial that we follow his lead.



In addition to the issue of Huawei, the U.S. is also falling behind in freeing up valuable mid-band spectrum for 5G deployment. China has already deployed [200 megahertz](#) of mid-band spectrum, and is in the process of deploying another 500 megahertz. The U.S. has deployed no mid-band spectrum for 5G. Earlier this month, Chairman Pai proposed a plan for a public C-band auction that includes \$9.7 billion in acceleration payments to the incumbent satellite companies to clear the 5G spectrum as quickly as possible. If executed, this plan would mean the C-band auction would occur before the end of this year, as opposed to the spectrum not being available for at least 10 years due to litigation. There is too much at risk to waste any more time.

If we want to protect our allies and maintain an advantage over our enemies, we must put an end to Huawei's increasing influence and win the race to 5G. Chairman Pai's proposal prioritizes speed in an effort to deploy the next generation of wireless technology before China. I am doing the same by supporting his proposal. For the sake of America's national security, you should too.

Sincerely,

Former Chairman Mike Rogers
(R-MI, ret.)
Chairman, 5G Action Now

Chris Christie
Former Governor of New Jersey

Tom Ridge
First Secretary, U.S. Department of
Homeland Security
43rd Governor of Pennsylvania

Michael Allen
Former Special Assistant to
President George W. Bush
National Security Council

Rear Admiral James Barnett
U.S. Navy, Retired

Steven P. Bucci
Visiting Research Fellow*
The Heritage Foundation
Former Army Special Forces Officer

Fred Campbell
Tech Knowledge
Former FCC Wireless Bureau
Chief

Brigadier General Stephen
Cheney
U.S. Marine Corps, Retired

Major General Bob Dees
U.S. Army, Retired

Ambassador Paula Dobriansky
Former Under Secretary of
State for Global Affairs

Thomas Duesterberg
Senior Fellow*
Hudson Institute

Brigadier General Robert J.
Felderman
U.S. Army, Retired

Vice Admiral Kevin P. Green
U.S. Navy, Retired

Andy Keiser
Former Deputy National Security
Advisor Trump Transition Team

Colonel Richard L. Klass
U.S. Air Force, Retired

Lieutenant Colonel Christopher
J. Kremidas-Courtney
U.S. Army, Retired

Roslyn Layton
Visiting Scholar*
American Enterprise Institute

Mark Mitchell
Former Acting Assistant Secretary of
Defense
Former Army Special Forces Officer



Lieutenant General John F.
Mullholland
U.S. Army, Retired

Lester Munson
Senior Fellow
National Security Institute at
George Mason University's
Antonin Scalia Law School

Diane Rinaldo
Former Acting Administrator
NTIA

Lieutenant General Norm Seip
U.S. Air Force, Retired

Bryan Smith
Senior Fellow
George Mason University's
National Security Institute

Nate Snyder
Senior Advisor
Cambridge Global Advisors

Lieutenant General Thomas
Trask
U.S. Air Force, Retired

Dr. Nicholas Waddy
Associate Professor of History
Alfred State College in New
York

Stephen Yates
Deputy Assistant to Vice President
Dick Cheney for National Security
Affairs

*Views expressed reflect those of the scholar: American Enterprise Institute, Hudson Institute and The Heritage Foundation are nonpartisan, nonprofit, 501(c)3 educational organizations and do not take policy positions.