

April 28, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The automotive industry shares your dedication to increasing safety on our nation's roadways. Vehicle-to-everything (V2X) technologies play an important role in helping us to achieve that goal, while also offering other significant economic, environmental, and transportation efficiency benefits. The automotive industry is committed to ensuring that V2X can realize its full potential in the United States. To that end, we informed you and Federal Communications Commission Chairman Pai last week of our industry-wide commitment to dramatically increase utilization of the 5.9 GHz band by deploying at least five million V2X devices within five years.¹ This buildout commitment clearly demonstrates that lifesaving V2X technologies are ready and can be deployed in significant numbers in the next five years and beyond.

We are pleased to share that the automotive industry has also reached consensus on a proposed band plan for the 5.9 GHz spectrum.² This landmark industry consensus band plan resolves the debate over which communication protocol should support V2X in the United States. As with the previously announced buildout commitment, this band plan is premised on all 75 MHz of spectrum within the 5.9 GHz band being preserved for V2X. It carries no implication regarding an auto industry consensus should the Commission, over our strong objection, reduce the amount of spectrum available in the 5.9 GHz band for V2X.

During the first five years of the band plan, the upper 20 MHz of the 5.9 GHz band will be reserved for LTE C-V2X exclusively, the lower 20 MHz of the 5.9 GHz band will be reserved for DSRC exclusively and the remaining 30 MHz in the middle of the band will be made available on a priority basis to Next-Gen DSRC and Advanced (5G) C-V2X technologies as they are developed and deployed.³ During the

¹ The buildout commitment is premised on the Federal Communications Commission assuring that all 75 MHz of spectrum will be maintained for transportation safety and taking action to permit C-V2X and DSRC to co-exist in the 5.9 GHz band.

² Auto Innovators submitted this band plan proposal to the Federal Communications Commission in its Reply Comments filed on April 27, 2020 (ET Docket 19-138).

³ This portion of the 5.9 GHz band will continue to be used by existing DSRC deployments which will operate at secondary priority to next generation technologies as they are rolled out.

fifth year, a process will be used to select the single technology (whether DSRC or LTE C-V2X and their respective future iterations) that will be permitted to use the full 5.9 GHz band going forward. After a single technology is selected, a ten-year phaseout period will ensue, whereby the technology that does not prevail will retain its initial exclusive 20 MHz allocation in either the upper or lower portion of the band. After this ten-year phaseout, the selected technology will have full access to the entire 5.9 GHz band.

This milestone band plan permits both technologies to make beneficial and efficient use of the 5.9 GHz spectrum band in the near-term, while also “future-proofing” for next generation auto safety technologies that are already under development and nearing deployment. Through the selection of a single technology within a defined period, the plan will soon put the industry in position to maximize benefits for road travelers and promote the most efficient use of the band going forward. By incorporating a phaseout that is appropriately aligned with the average lifespan of today’s vehicles, the plan also helps minimize risk for manufacturers and infrastructure providers who wish to deploy V2X technologies before the single technology is selected.

Through the buildout commitment and this consensus band plan, the automotive industry has clearly demonstrated its dedication to ensuring that the safety, economic, and societal benefits of V2X technologies are made available in the United States. We greatly appreciate the support you and the Federal Communications Commission have already provided on this important issue and welcome the opportunity to continue working with you to optimize the 5.9 GHz Safety Spectrum, which is a public resource.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Bozzella". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of the first name being a large, stylized 'J'.

John Bozzella
President and CEO

Cc: Chairman Ajit Pai, Federal Communications Commission
Douglas Kinkoph, National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Michael O’Rielly, Federal Communications Commission
Brendan Carr, Federal Communications Commission
Jessica Rosenworcel, Federal Communications Commission
Geoffrey Starks, Federal Communications Commission