



November 13, 2025

The Honorable John Thune  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Room S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Room H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Room S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Room H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Speaker Johnson, and Minority Leaders Schumer and Jeffries:

On behalf of CTIA and the nation's wireless industry, I write to express our appreciation for Congress's ongoing leadership in advancing America's technology and national security interests through sound spectrum policy. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act ("OBBBA") represents an historic opportunity for the United States to lead the world in next-generation wireless technology and services. This landmark legislation created a pipeline of future spectrum auctions that will promote American innovation, protect national security, drive the development of AI, create U.S. jobs, and improve the lives of American consumers—all while contributing billions of dollars directly to the U.S. Treasury.

The spectrum provisions included in the OBBBA represent a carefully-crafted compromise negotiated by key Congressional leaders with the involvement of the White House. Ultimately, the compromise required 800 megahertz of spectrum to be auctioned for commercial licensed use. The law also prohibited the auction of spectrum between 3.1-3.45 GHz and 7.4-8.4 GHz due to concerns relating to our nation's defense.

As someone who has worked for years at the intersection of national security and communications policy, I know how difficult it is to strike this careful balance. Yet the bill achieved it – the law protects the mission-critical operations of our defense and intelligence communities while affording the wireless sector the clarity and certainty necessary to invest, innovate, and deliver next-generation connectivity. In short, the law reflects a thoughtful compromise – one that delivers for the American people.



In light of the OBBBA's significant breakthrough in U.S. spectrum policy, we have serious concerns that a provision in the Senate version of the National Defense Authorization Act ("NDAA") will undermine the government's ability to implement the OBBBA's mandate. Specifically, Section 1564 prohibits the modification of existing or future systems using those same bands – 3.1-3.45 GHz and 7.4-8.4 GHz – unless the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff jointly certify. This additional requirement is unnecessary because the OBBBA already vests this authority with the President, in whom the Constitution vests plenary executive authority as Commander-in-Chief. Indeed, the Administration opposed Section 1564 in its September 9, 2025 "Statement of Administration Policy" because it would "hinder the President's executive authority."

Consistent with President's Trump's views, we respectfully request that Section 1564 not be included in the final version of the 2026 NDAA. We again appreciate Congress's leadership in creating a robust spectrum pipeline, and we look forward to working with you to advance America's global leadership in wireless in a manner that safeguards our nation's defense.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ajit Pai".

Ajit Pai  
President & CEO

Cc:

The Honorable Ted Cruz, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
The Honorable Brett Guthrie, House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
The Honorable Frank Pallone, House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
The Honorable Roger Wicker, Senate Committee on Armed Services  
The Honorable Jack Reed, Senate Committee on Armed Services  
The Honorable Mike Rogers, House Committee on Armed Services  
The Honorable Adam Smith, House Committee on Armed Services