

Response to Written Questions Submitted by Hon.
John Thune
Written Questions for the Record to
Commissioner Carr

Question 1. Please describe actions the FCC has taken to meet its statutory obligations in regards to the T-band.

Response: Mr. Chairman, thank you for the question and for your leadership on public safety issues. It is my understanding that the FCC has taken a number of actions in recent years to meet its statutory obligations pursuant to the Spectrum Act relating to the T-Band. Those actions are as follows:

- In April 2012, the FCC issued a Public Notice that froze the processing of applications for new or expanded T-Band operations. That same month, the FCC adopted an Order that waived the January 2013 deadline for the migration of T-Band licensees to narrowband technologies, due to the need for future relocation.
- In February 2013, the FCC issued a Public Notice to obtain additional information to help inform future decisions regarding the T-Band.
- In October 2014, the FCC adopted an Order opening up the 700 MHz narrowband reserve channels (24 reserve channel pairs) for general licensing and gave T-Band public safety licensees priority access to those channels.
- Finally, in February 2015, the FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding the 800 MHz band that proposed to give T-Band incumbents priority access to interstitial channels.

Response to Written Questions Submitted by Hon.
Roger Wicker
Written Questions for the Record to
Commissioner Carr

Question 1. Commissioner Carr, this month Mississippi celebrated the groundbreaking of a new Center for Emergency Services on the University of Mississippi Medical Center's campus in Jackson. This center will enhance our disaster response by helping emergency medical personnel and first responders deliver faster, quality care to those in need. This center will support the deployment of the Mississippi Tele-Assist System, which involves deploying emergency vehicles with the ability to transmit life-saving images using internet connectivity. In your view, how can we leverage existing services, such as those that will be provided through the new Mississippi Center for Emergency Services, to maximize the impact and effectiveness of the Connected Care Pilot Program, particularly for our first responders and emergency medical personnel?

Response: Senator, thank you for the question and for your leadership on telehealth issues. The idea for the Connected Care Pilot Program stemmed from my initial visit with you in Jackson and the time I spent at the University of Mississippi Medical Center learning about their advanced telehealth technologies.

As part of the Notice initiating the Connected Care Pilot Program, the Commission seeks comment on whether and how the pilot program could fund connectivity for emergency medical service facilities, such as ambulances, recognizing that EMS-based telehealth may help triage patients more quickly and lead to cost savings for local governments. I would welcome the chance to learn more about the Mississippi Tele-Assist System and how emergency services might be leveraged as part of the Connected Care Pilot Program.

Question 2. Commissioner Carr, will the FCC consider using the Connected Care Pilot Program to help meet the needs of rural emergency responders in improving their care delivery and coordination to special needs populations, like children?

Response: Yes. I think this is an important way that the Pilot Program could help bridge the health care digital divide.

Question 3. Commissioner Carr, in rural areas patients often lack access to primary care facilities. In many instances, local schools (and homes) serve as a site of health care service in these areas. Will the FCC consider permitting schools to be "sites of service" in telehealth programs supported by the Connected Care Pilot Program?

Response: Senator, you raise a good point. I will plan to look into this idea further, consistent with the Commission's statutory authority to provide connectivity to such sites.

Question 4. Commissioner Carr, will the FCC consider using the Connected Care Pilot Program to support tele-mental health care delivery to rural areas and other underserved communities?

Response: Yes. I believe this is an important health care application where remote connectivity can be especially helpful, particularly in rural areas and for veteran populations.

Response to Written Questions Submitted by Hon.
Jerry Moran
Written Questions for the Record to
Commissioner Carr

Question 1. According to studies, the deployment of 5G wireless technology is expected to contribute \$275 billion in new investment, \$500 billion in economic growth, and up to 3 million new jobs to the U.S economy. These projected benefits highlight why the U.S. needs to keep pace and surpass our foreign competitors like China and South Korea. While I have supported legislation like the RAPID Act and the MOBILE NOW Act to streamline overly-cumbersome siting requirements and regulations, what else should be done to increase U.S. competitiveness in 5G deployment while appropriately maintaining local and state authority over larger macro-tower siting?

Response: Senator, thank you for the question and for your leadership on these issues. As I envision it we must focus on two things to keep pace and surpass our foreign competitors in the race to 5G: spectrum and infrastructure. On the spectrum side, we became the first country in the world to allocate high-band spectrum for 5G, and we're now opening even more 5G bands. At the FCC, we have already assigned more high-band spectrum for 5G than any country in the world—we're more than four gigahertz ahead of second-place China. Additionally, we are looking to free up more low-, mid-, and high-band spectrum. We need to keep this up.

On the infrastructure side, we must continue to remove barriers to infrastructure deployment to ensure our regulatory structures are 5G Ready. Your efforts on the RAPID Act are very helpful in this regard. The FCC has been taking steps, as well, to push the regulatory costs out of the system and encourage more deployment. In March, for instance, we adopted an order that exempts small cells from certain federal historical and environmental review procedures that were designed for those large, hundred-foot towers. This decision extended the same regulatory treatment to small cells that the Commission has always applied to the deployment of other types of infrastructure, including Wi-Fi routers and consumer signal boosters. This one step is expected to cut about 30% of the total cost of deploying small cells. In fact, an Accenture study determined that our action could save \$1.56 billion, which could be used to deploy 55,000 new cell sites and create more than 17,000 jobs. Additionally, the FCC is scheduled to vote at its September 26 Open Meeting on a 5G order that is expected to pave the way for small cell deployment, including by saving \$2 billion in unnecessary fees and creating more than 27,000 new jobs.

Response to Written Questions Submitted by Hon.
Shelley Moore Capito
Written Questions for the Record to
Commissioner Carr

Question 1. In many rural communities, students have long commutes on school buses sometimes upwards of half an hour, an hour, or even longer one-way. Given the connectivity challenges many students face in rural communities, how could E-rate help connect school buses with wifi to allow students to use commute time to do homework, projects, or other school work?

Response: Senator, thank you for the question and for your leadership on these issues. I agree with you that we should continue looking for ways to close the digital divide. There may be a range of solutions to help do that, as you suggest. I would be happy to work with you and your staff to think about additional policies we can implement to help ensure connectivity for students around the country.