September 22, 2025

The Honorable Brendan Carr
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L St NE
Washington, DC 20554

Re: SB Docket No. 25-157, Modernizing Spectrum Sharing for Satellite Broadband

Dear Chairman Carr,

We, a bipartisan group of stakeholders, urge the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to update the current equivalent power-flux density (EPFD) limits imposed on satellites, which the Commission's pending proposal accurately describes as potentially "the single most constraining regulatory requirement on NGSO satellite systems."[1] The current limits, established 25 years ago, do not reflect the significant advancements in Low Earth orbit (LEO) satellite technology in recent decades. By updating these outdated rules, the FCC can foster the burgeoning LEO satellite ecosystem, which will benefit American consumers and businesses, while protecting existing Geostationary Orbit (GSO) systems from harmful interference.

LEO satellites are crucial for providing broadband access to rural communities and enhancing public safety. More than 43 million Americans still lack broadband access[2], and in areas where traditional terrestrial networks are not economically viable, LEO satellites can provide reliable, high-speed broadband, connecting even the most rural and remote Americans. Additionally, as we have recently seen in the wake of tragic natural disasters in Texas and North Carolina, this technology is also vital for first responders, as LEO satellites can provide critical communication links when ground-based infrastructure is damaged or destroyed.

Updating EPFD limits would significantly increase satellite capacity and lower prices for consumers. A recent study found that new power limits could increase LEO capacity available to an area by 700%.[3] Former FCC Commissioner Harold Furchtgott-Roth's economic study found that these capacity increases could in turn generate tens of billions of dollars in consumer welfare globally.[4] Over time, this increase in capacity and potential increase in competition will help keep prices down for families, businesses, hospitals and schools, as well as much-needed network redundancies.

Furthermore, updating the EPFD limits will boost competition in the satellite market. The current outdated rules create a high barrier to entry for new and smaller companies, stifling innovation and limiting consumer choice. But increased power levels would mean higher capacity, allowing smaller constellations to offer high-capacity networks at lower costs because fewer launches and satellites would

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[1] https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-25-23A1.pdf

[2] https://ccianet.org/research/stats/low-earth-orbit-leo-satellite-broadband-facts-and-stats

[3] https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/10728042711339/1

[4] https://allianceforsatellitebroadband.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/The-Economic-Benefits-of-Updating-Regulations-that-Unnecessarily-Limit-Non-Geostationary-Satellite-Orbit-Systems.pdf

be needed to deploy constellations with equal or higher performance. By revising the rules, the FCC can encourage more players to enter the market, creating a more dynamic and competitive satellite industry.

Finally, revising the EPFD limits will strengthen American competitiveness in the global satellite market and solidify US leadership in space. The ITU's outdated rules for satellite spectrum are badly lagging the pace of American innovation. As other nations advance their satellite technologies and regulations, the U.S. must maintain its leadership position in the global space race. Updating these limits would demonstrate the FCC's commitment to fostering innovation in space and ensuring that American companies remain at the forefront of satellite technology.

We urge the Commission to move forward with updating the EPFD limits and to champion this reform internationally and at the ITU to unlock the full potential of LEO satellites both domestically and abroad. Americans would greatly benefit from greater access to LEO broadband, increased competition, lower prices, and improved service quality. We thank the FCC for its commitment to date on this issue and look forward to a continued focus on modernizing outdated regulations.

Sincerely,

Nathanael Andrews, Software & Information Industry Association

Michael Calabrese, Open Technology Institute at New America

Jessica Dine, Open Technology Institute at New America

Harold Feld, Public Knowledge

Rebecca Grant, Lexington Institute

Aden Hizkias, Chamber of Progress

Luke Hogg

Nathan Leamer, Digital First Project

Zachary Lilly, NetChoice

Paul Lekas, Software & Information Industry Association

Karina Perez, Computer & Communications Industry Association

Christopher L. Shipley, INCOMPAS

Joshua Stein, PhD, Software & Information Industry Association

Kristian Stout, International Center for Law & Economics