



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

FEB 19 2014

Dear Members of the International Telecommunication Advisory Committee:

As you know, with two Presidential memoranda plus landmark legislation, this Administration has moved aggressively to free up spectrum for consumer use. America's leadership in the development and deployment of wireless technologies has helped drive our economy and is critical to our continued prosperity. At the same time, the President has made clear that we will not compromise the vital missions of our Federal agencies.

With that in mind, the United States is actively engaged in the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) Joint Task Group (JTG) studies to consider additional spectrum allocations to the mobile service for terrestrial mobile broadband applications and identification of frequency bands for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) at the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15). The United States is currently considering 5350-5470 MHz for Unlicensed National Information Infrastructure (U-NII) devices radio local area networks (RLANs). While studies to determine compatibility and appropriate interference mitigation techniques continue, industry has not yet shown that these devices can operate without causing interference to incumbent systems. The United States will promote the band 5350-5470 MHz as a candidate for consideration at WRC-15 only if analyses are completed and mitigation measures that protect existing services are identified and demonstrated.

Federal systems in the band 5350-5470 MHz include a variety of national security and safety of life radar systems installed on airborne, ground-based, shipborne, and space-based platforms. Additionally, Canada and the European Space Agency operate Earth exploration satellites under an international primary allocation in the band 5250-5570 MHz but have focused their work in the band 5350-5470 MHz due to concern over WiFi employing Dynamic Frequency Selection in other portions of their operating band. These satellites provide mission critical data in support of national security, public safety, law enforcement, and civilian applications in Canada, the United States, and other NATO countries.

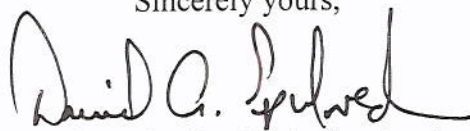
As the Coordinator for International Communications and Information Policy, I am working with the National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA) and our federal agencies, as well as with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and industry to ensure that the necessary analyses are completed and interference avoidance or mitigation techniques are developed and demonstrated in time to resolve concerns and to develop international support for a U.S. position.

To gain international support for candidate bands, the July meeting of the JTG remains a critical point as this will be the final meeting to develop input text for the Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM) Report on bands under consideration. According to the agreed JTG timeline, studies were to have been completed by the February meeting, with the July meeting to focus on finalizing CPM text on Agenda Item 1.1. Analyses need to be completed and interference avoidance or mitigation techniques need to be identified and demonstrated by that time to maximize chances of success. NTIA, FCC, industry, and impacted federal agencies will work cooperatively through the ITAC-R process to adjudicate industry analysis, including evaluation and testing of any proposals for potential interference mitigation techniques. I recognize that completion of those steps for the July meeting represents a significant challenge for industry. At the same time, federal agencies have limited resources to participate in analyses and testing on this band as they continue to support the repurposing of other spectrum toward the President's goal.

After the final JTG meeting in July, the ability of the United States to gain international support will be greatly compromised as we will have missed an internationally established key deadline in the WRC-15 preparatory process. Extraordinary measures will be required to gain international acceptance of late studies after the JTG finishes its work. At the same time, in preparation for WRC-15, the United States will have to focus on and establish strategies for agenda items where we have established the basis for international support. Therefore, any delay beyond the July JTG meeting could create challenges for U.S. success on other issues and efforts to support the 5350-5470 MHz band will have to be judged against conflicts with other priorities.

The Administration shares the industry's desire to mobilize as much spectrum as possible for mobile broadband use and even if we are unable to complete the necessary work in time for the consideration of WRC-15, we will continue work together to consider potential proposals for a specific future agenda item for WRC-18. Please keep Julie Zoller of my staff and the NTIA and FCC representatives to the U.S. preparatory group for the JTG apprised of progress in the completion of work toward the July JTG meeting. I will ask them to meet with you and concerned agencies to reevaluate the situation at the close of that July meeting.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel A. Sepulveda". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ambassador Daniel A. Sepulveda

U.S. Coordinator for International Communications and Information Policy