

March 20, 2020

Ms. Marlene Dortch  
Secretary, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Extension on Reply Comments for ET Docket No. 19-138, FCC 19-129 “Use of the 5.850-5.925 GHz Band”

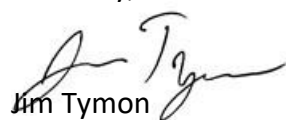
Dear Ms. Dortch:

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) is requesting that the Federal Communications Commission ***extend the reply comment period an extra 90 days, until Monday July 6, 2020***, for the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) posted on February 6, 2020 titled “Use of the 5.850-5.929 GHz Band” (ET Docket No. 19-138, FCC Docket No. 19-129). The United States of America is currently dealing with an extraordinary situation in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The State Departments of Transportation (State DOTs) are on the front lines trying to maintain current operations of the transportation system as well as respond to nearly hourly and daily requests from Governor’s and other leaders needs for changes and exemptions to current regulations. Simply put: ***given the current situation, the State DOTs do not have the current capacity to read through, analyze, and develop responses to the hundreds of comments posted to the docket on this very important matter.***

AASHTO and its member departments are very concerned about the FCC proposal to reallocate portions of the 5.9 GHz spectrum. Our members believe the decision that FCC is making will severely affect the health and safety of millions of Americans. However, our members are also responding to a more immediate health and safety challenge, COVID-19, which must take priority.

We appreciate your consideration and understanding of this very unique situation and trust that you will provide the needed commenting period extension. If you would like to discuss this issue any further, please contact Matthew Hardy, AASHTO’s Program Director for Planning and Performance Management at (202) 624-3625.

Sincerely,



Jim Tymon

Executive Director, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials