

IACP Echoes FCC Chairman Pai's Call for Repeal of T-Band Auction Mandate

Chairman Ajit Pai announced today that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has initiated the legislatively mandated process to auction off portions of the T-Band spectrum. As part of that announcement, Chairman Pai issued a statement calling for a Congressional repeal of that mandate. The IACP stands with Chairman Pai on this effort and has been vocal in recent months about the need to repeal or legislate against the requirement to publicly auction off any part of the T-Band.

The T-Band is a portion of radio spectrum that serves public safety agencies in eleven of the most populous regions of the United States. This includes New York City, Boston, and Los Angeles, all locations that have experienced terrorist attacks. Should portions of the T-Band be sold at auction to private citizens or businesses, public safety agencies in these areas, including police, fire, and emergency medical services, risk disruption to critical communications during emergent situations, including natural and manmade disasters. Without urgent action by Congress to relieve the FCC of its requirement to auction parts of the T-Band, five of the eleven regions that rely on it will be left with no alternative spectrum on which to communicate by radio. Lastly, auction proceeds are not projected to cover the approximately \$6 billion in relocation costs, meaning local governments and police departments will be left to shoulder this burden in a time of increasing financial difficulty.

We stand with our police officers, firefighters, and EMTs to ensure they have the resources they need to do their jobs. As such, the IACP echoes the statement released by Chairman Pai and joins the FCC in urging Congress to swiftly pass the bipartisan "Don't Break Up the T-Band Act" (H.R. 451/S. 2748) to save the T-Band.

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