



November 12, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**RE: U.S. Department of Defense Contracting Processes Related to a Nationalized 5G Network**

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leader McCarthy,

On behalf of the minority business community in the United States, we are writing to express our concern regarding actions by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) moving forward with a Request for Proposal (RFP) without due process to create a nationalized 5G network. Collectively, the undersigned organizations represent the interests of more than 9.3 million minority-owned business enterprises (MBEs) and a network of more than 450 minority focused nonprofit organizations across the United States and Mexico.

On behalf of our respective constituencies and the millions of minority businesses we serve, we are urging you to strongly consider the role that procurement practices play in scaling and evolving MBEs. These potential actions by the DoD could impact the ability for MBEs to grow as we work to solve the digital divide in our country. Moreover, the current investments made by corporate and private sector companies would be impacted negatively causing economic unrest and instability.

A nationalized network approach would be harmful for the U.S... It would stall the closing of the digital divide, cause negative impact for consumers, and could even have adverse effects on military readiness. Through bipartisan collaboration, our country's innovative, private sector led, 5G efforts have evolved our 5G economy, boosted wireless investment, and have come out ahead of key 5G competitors such as China. The U.S. already has 5G networks. Thanks to \$100+ billion in private sector investment in the past ten years, the U.S. has three nationwide 5G networks with the fastest speeds. These initial 5G networks already cover more than 250 million Americans.

Furthermore, one operator out of the major three has committed to expand investment and aims to serve more than 90% of rural America.

According to a recent CNN article reported for example, a government auction of 70 megahertz of spectrum in August 2020 went for more than \$4.5 billion. The current bid in question would be for 350 megahertz of spectrum, five times that amount sold earlier this year.

In strong unity, we are asking you to consider a vetted process to review the procurement of the DoD, the actions being considered by the DoD to nationalize 5G, and eliminate any political bias related to this issue. All related lobbying or RFP processes where conflicts of interest may exist between potential contractors, the Administration, or Congress should be considered and carefully examined.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time. Thank you in advance for your consideration in this matter, we look forward to your positive response and collaboration as you continue to design the economic future of our country through strategic bipartisan legislative action.

Respectfully,



Chiling Tong  
President & CEO  
National ACE



Ramiro A. Cavazos  
President & CEO  
U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce



Ron Busby Sr.  
President & CEO  
U.S. Black Chamber, Inc.



Justin Nelson  
President & CEO  
National LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce

**CC:** The Honorable Chuck Grassley, President Pro Tempore, Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance  
The Honorable Adam Smith, Chairman, House Armed Services Committee  
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr., Chairman, House Energy and Commerce Committee  
The Honorable Mike Doyle, Chairman, House Subcommittee Communications and Technology  
Members of the Congressional Black Caucus  
Members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus  
Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus