Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of
Modernizing and Expanding Access to the 70/80/90 GHz Bands

/comments of the
National Telecommunications and Information Administration

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), in support of the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Department of Commerce (DOC), and the Department of Air Force (DAF), provides the attached comments in response to the Public Notice in the above-captioned rulemaking docket to supplement the Commission’s record on use of the 71-76 GHz, 81-86 GHz, 92-94 GHz, and the 94.1-95 GHz (70/80/90 GHz) bands for rural broadband access.\(^1\) The Public Notice in particular sought comment on the use of High Altitude Platform Stations (HAPS) in these bands.

Among the points raised in the attached comments, submitted herewith in their entirety, are as follows:

- The attached comments note that the Public Notice did not address provisions or requirements that would protect incumbent Science Services operating in adjacent bands, including passive operations.

• The attached comments highlight a variety of extensive and important federal uses of the 70/80/90 GHz bands.

• NSF’s comments explain that federal operations in the bands are important to radio astronomy, noting that many critical molecular spectral lines are observable in these bands and concluding that its initial analysis indicates that the 92-94 and 94.1-95 GHz bands should be eliminated from consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Remaley
Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information

Kathy D. Smith
Chief Counsel

Charles Cooper, Associate Administrator
Office of Spectrum Management

National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20230
(202) 482-1816

December 29, 2021
ATTACHMENT 1

Comments of
The National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Department of Commerce
Department of the Air Force
ATTACHMENT 2
Comments of
The National Science Foundation