

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 27, 2025

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20230

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Lutnick and Secretary Hegseth:

I write regarding the Citizens Broadband Radio Service (CBRS) band and its importance to both the efficiency and capability of the Department of Defense and the work of the Department of Commerce to reshore and promote U.S. manufacturing. The CBRS band has proven essential in the race to 5G innovation, and eliminating or significantly modifying use of the band would hurt American manufacturing and military readiness while ceding our advantages in 5G to our adversaries.

In the first Trump Administration, the Federal Communications Commission opened the CBRS band for shared public-and-private use, launching the first spectrum sharing model. The structure of CBRS's licenses and uses has made spectrum more accessible and granular enough for manufacturing facilities, entertainment venues, hospitals, schools, and others to participate, enabling them to build their own private 4G or 5G networks. With this structure, CBRS has become an innovation band, supporting critical 5G connectivity and powering transformation across different sectors. These networks represent an important approach to connectivity for not only mission-critical operations at DoD, with sophisticated equipment-to-equipment connectivity that enhances operational efficiency and security, but also for the manufacturing capabilities our defense industrial base increasingly relies on.

Across the Department of Defense, private 5G networks supported by CBRS are transforming military operations and connecting military assets. These networks enable comprehensive monitoring and accountability of equipment in ways that deliver unprecedented efficiencies. We have seen this at bases across the U.S. where 5G CBRS networks connect automated conveyors, mobile material handlers, and location-reporting robots to enable super-charged logistics efficiency. Other bases have used CBRS networks to connect high-resolution imaging devices in order to reduce aircraft engine inspection times and support military readiness.

Advanced manufacturing, including the defense industrial base, requires high levels of reliably interconnected devices and robotics, increasingly run on private wireless networks supported by the CBRS band. These private networks are critical for manufacturing because their security can be controlled by manufacturers themselves, ensuring that highly sensitive trade secrets and intellectual property are protected from foreign corporate espionage. With private 5G systems, manufacturers can control the needed redundancy and resiliency of networks, which is critical

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for controlling manufacturing processes that, if improperly configured, could be extremely costly. CBRS is backbone of the networks powering our nation's advanced manufacturing. For example, in Arizona, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) uses their CBRS network to help simplify and centralize precise and costly manufacturing processes. Rebuilding American advanced manufacturing is a critical part of supporting American economic and national security. However, we must also build and support the networks like CBRS that are needed to power advanced manufacturing.

I encourage you to consider this technology as a key comparative advantage for the United States, rather than support reductions that could undermine American competitiveness. I look forward to working with both of your departments to better understand current CBRS usage and how we can best support this technology as a strategic advantage for both our national security capabilities and our manufacturing competitiveness.

Sincerely,



Jacky Rosen
United States Senate