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Congress of the United States
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COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
CHAIRMAN

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

November 19, 2019

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

I write today to request information about research studies used by the FCC in the agency's decision-making regarding radiofrequency (RF) exposure safety standards.

Many of my constituents have reached out to me with questions about RF exposure safety given the widespread deployment of new telecommunications technologies and societal changes in how cell phones are used. As you know, in 1996, the FCC promulgated guidelines for safe levels for human exposure to RF energy. Last August, you announced a proposal maintaining these existing RF limits. While I understand that the FCC worked with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and other federal agencies in recommending no changes to current RF exposure limits, it is not clear what research and what evaluation process the FCC relied on in making this decision. The FCC has a responsibility to ensure public confidence in its decisions by being transparent and forthright about its decision-making. To that end, I respectfully request additional information about the scope of the research the FCC relied on for its review and that your staff provide a list and descriptions of the studies examined prior to last August's decision.

In addition, I would like to draw your attention to an August 21, 2019 article in the Chicago Tribune reporting independent testing of popular cell phones. The Tribune's investigation found that popular brands of phones expose users to RF energy at levels above both current legal safety limits and the measurements reported by the companies themselves. Regardless of where any particular standard should be set, I trust we can all agree that violations of existing rules are a very serious matter and deserve prompt and vigorous attention from government authorities. The Tribune reported that the FCC would conduct its own testing to see if these results could be replicated. Please provide an update on the status of this testing, what steps the FCC is taking to ensure compliance with existing rules, and when results may become publicly available.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of this letter. Please reach out to Sofya Leonova on my staff with any questions or follow-up at sofya.leonova@mail.house.gov or (202)225-5701. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

DANIEL W. LIPINSKI
Member of Congress

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