

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

May 20, 2020



Chuck Hoskin Jr.
Principal Chief

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th St. SW
Washington, DC 20554



Bill Anoatubby
Governor

RE: In Support of COVID-19 Adjustment to FCC Timelines Governing Tribal Priority Filing Windows

Dear Chairman Pai,

The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes, an organization comprised of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations representing 790,000 tribal citizens throughout the United States, respectfully request the tribal priority window for 2.5GHz spectrum over tribal lands be extended for three months.



Gary Batton
Chief

Our request is consistent with the request made recently by the Commission's Native Nations Communications Task Force. We also understand that the National Congress of American Indians has submitted a similar request along with asking the Commission to delay the start of the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (Auction 904).



David Hill
Principal Chief

While tribal nations throughout the country are faced with a varying set of needs and circumstances, the one thing we have in common is that our citizens are disproportionately impacted by the health conditions that make them the most vulnerable and at a higher risks of a serious COVID-19 illness. As a result, our focus is on protecting the health and safety of our citizens and communities.

The Five Tribes have been on the front lines of COVID-19 crisis from day one. We have continued to provide essential services to our citizens including health care, food, housing, public safety, education and other critical services. In many instances, we have even expanded these programs despite incurring a tremendous loss of revenue due to tribal business closures and a workforce teleworking or on paid-administrative leave.



Greg P. Chilcoat
Chief

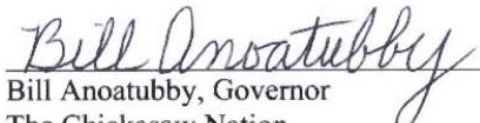
Tribal nations are dedicating resources that would typically be used to focus on these opportunities to instead focus on the immediate response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

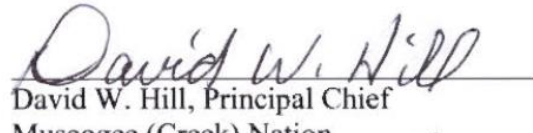
We believe extending the tribal priority window for 2.5GHz spectrum over tribal lands will better position tribes and the Commission in meeting their mutual goal of bridging the digital divide in Indian Country.


The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

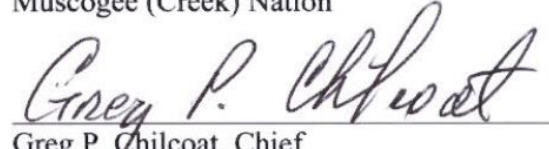
Thank you for your consideration of this request. If we can provide further information to you or your staff, please contact Kim Teehee at: kim-teehee@cherokee.org or (202) 615-9505.

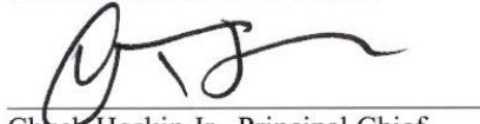
Sincerely,


Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation


David W. Hill, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation


Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma


Greg P. Chilcoat, Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma


Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation

CC:

Mr. Donald Stockdale, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Chief, FCC;
Mr. Matthew Duchesne, Office of Native Affairs and Policy, FCC