



May 16, 2023

Alan Davidson  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)  
Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

*Re: Development of a National Spectrum Strategy*

Dear Assistant Secretary Davidson,

On behalf of the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO), I would like to thank you for your ongoing contributions and leadership on our nation's spectrum strategy.

According to our most recent National Association of Women Business Owners survey, the top five tools and assistance women business owners need to grow all utilize broadband. For example, almost half of the members believe training on social media tools is the number one essential tool for business growth, and nearly 40% say e-commerce and tech tool training will help them expand while others think fintech, technology to find employees, and simply broadband and internet service will lead to business expansion. Regardless of what women business owners stated as their top tool, we cannot deny the need for reliable, affordable high-speed internet. These data points did not even touch on the close to 80% who have or are interested in website and website management tools. All these reference points underscore the ever-increasing need for broadband to run their business operations sufficiently.

As you continue to work through the National Spectrum Strategy, we hope you will understand the need for more full-power licensed spectrum to ensure that our providers can supply our women business owners with access to the internet. As you can see, the demand is exponentially increasing; we hear from numerous business owners about their challenges with wireless broadband deserts. We must ensure our internet service providers can serve the parties they need to help, particularly as we build new infrastructure. As our nation continues to build out more broadband access, it will mean nothing if our providers do not have the licensed spectrum necessary to meet demand.

NAWBO believes additional licensed spectrum, especially mid-band spectrum, similar to other nations, will keep America on the path to economic vibrancy.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Jen Earle  
CEO  
NAWBO National