

# What Others Are Saying: The Cost Of Delaying 5G Deployment Is Too High

The U.S. Can Move Forward Safely And Must Do So Without Further Delay  
For The Sake Of The Economy And National Security

“It would be a costly and avoidable mistake with profound consequences for U.S. economic competitiveness and national security interests to allow the dispute over spectrum policy to linger indefinitely and sideline U.S. telecommunications industry leaders. U.S. government agencies should communicate that the U.S. is a formidable competitor and not make unforced errors that will support China’s ambitions.”

**- Leading National Security Experts’ Letter to the White House**

“This is an issue of national security and American global influence. China, which imposes far fewer restrictions on wireless providers than we do, is already much closer than we are to operating 5G at scale. Imposing an arbitrary delay on U.S. wireless companies at this stage of deployment because of baseless fears of interference would compromise national security and allow the Chinese to dominate in 5G operation expertise, just as they have sought to dominate in semiconductors and other critical component manufacturing. If America cannot resolve this internal 5G challenge, 5G deployment is at risk.”

**- Retired U.S. Army Major General James “Spider” Marks**

“Left unchecked, the FAA’s position on 5G could pose a direct threat to U.S. national security. Among other high-tech advantages, our ability to combat cyber threats, gather vital intelligence, and deploy the latest in computer-guided weaponry will hinge on the full deployment of state-of-the-art 5G networks. Allowing China to deploy robust 5G infrastructure before we do in the U.S. could leave our nation vulnerable to cybersecurity attacks on everything from combat operations to the electric grid, communications and transportation networks, and other essential public services.”

**- Retired U.S. Army Major General Bob Dees**

“The FAA’s actions are yet another example of how government red tape can stymie American progress and growth. Blocking our ability to deploy 5G will cause us to miss out on many first mover learnings and advantages – ceding this valuable technology to China and other geopolitical foes. It’s time for the FAA and the FCC to work together to resolve their concerns. Allowing the FAA’s Special Airworthiness warning to lead to further delays in network buildouts will cause the U.S. to continue falling behind in the race to 5G.”

**- Retired U.S. Army Major General Bob Dees**

“ Recently, the aviation industry and the Federal Aviation Administration have suggested we should delay launching 5G in the C-Band. A delay will cause real harm. Pushing back deployment one year would subtract \$50 billion in economic growth, just as our nation recovers and rebuilds from the pandemic. It would leave us further behind the dozens of other countries already using this spectrum, harming our country’s global competitiveness. And it would severely limit our ability to ensure all Americans have access to high-speed mobile broadband just as our nation prepares to invest billions to build broadband infrastructure.”

**– CTIA President & CEO and Former FCC Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker**

“ Resolving this issue is urgent because the new networks are an order of magnitude faster than the current networks and will allow entirely new services and industries to develop around them. U.S. businesses have already made sizable investments predicated on 5G being readily available in the near future, and these, in turn, will bring tangible improvements to the lives of Americans.”

**– Former Senior Economist of the U.S. Treasury and the U.S. Congress Ike Brannon**

“ An interagency squabble between the FAA and the FCC could damage the US ability to implement 5G service, just as the economy is starting to accelerate. 5G provides essential new capabilities for businesses in areas from digital manufacturing to logistics to agriculture. A 2020 PPI report projected that 5G-enabled enterprises could create 4.6 million jobs over the next 15 years, and hundreds of thousands of jobs in the near-term. The Biden Administration must step in and make sure that this issue is settled as quickly as possible, in a way that accounts for safety without holding back growth.”

**– Progressive Policy Institute Vice President and Chief Economist Michael Mandel**

“ Mid-band frequencies are absolutely critical for the success of 5G. Derailing C-Band use in the long term based on poor scientific reasoning would result in a huge cost to the wireless industry, the economy, and society.”

**– Rysavy Research President Peter Rysavy**

“ [T]he Biden Administration needs to force the FAA and the FCC to work out their differences and remove roadblocks to getting 5G broadband built out and made available to more small businesses, more schools, libraries, homes, health centers, farms and more without risking anyone’s life.”

**– Recon Analytics Founder and Analyst Roger Entner**

“ The bottom line is that a questionable objection from the FAA could end up delaying the rollout of a critical new technology enabled by the Federal Communications Commission to a broad swath of the U.S. public. Along the way, it could also delay important (and significant) economic impacts that virtually everyone expects to come from the wide availability and use of truly differentiated 5G service.”

**– TECHanalysis Research’s Bob O’Donnell**

“ Any delay in 5G rollouts is not a good development for American consumers and small businesses — or for our nation’s collective efforts to win the international 5G race against global competitors such as China.”

**– Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council CEO Karen Kerrigan**

“ A delay of a month in the grand scheme of things will not set back AT&T or Verizon deployment plans. What would cause real problems, and ripple effects in the industry, is if this stretches on indefinitely. . . . If wireless companies get held up for some indefinite period for some unknown amount of money after investing multiple years and well over \$100 billion (\$80 billion for the spectrum licenses, plus whatever they have to pay to build the network), it is going to have a destabilizing effect on the industry as a whole. No one can afford to spend this kind of money and then get thrown into limbo indefinitely, with no clear idea how to even resolve the situation.”

**- Public Knowledge Senior Vice President Harold Feld**

“ This administration has promised to bring 5G to all Americans, and has promised that it would stay ahead of the Chinese, who are quickly rolling ahead to deploy its own 5G technology. With massive state resources from the government behind them, Chinese-supported firms already have a major inherent advantage of US companies and are determined to win the 5G race around the Globe. The FAA’s attempts to delay 5G rollouts, motivated by who knows what reason, will seriously disadvantage American firms and only benefit China’s ambitions.”

**- Heritage Foundation Visiting Fellow Steven Bucci**

“ What is at stake is a knee-jerk regulatory reaction that would slow or block 5G deployment at the detriment of consumers who want faster and more dependable wireless services, and the loss of U.S. leadership in 5G is a very real danger. Impeding deployment based on unfounded claims would put the U.S. even further behind the Chinese, who are doing everything in their power to deploy 5G. Essentially, it would hinder progress in every important thing this technology impacts, from national security to education to healthcare to business. Countries that don’t get 5G right are going to be left behind, as will their consumers.”

**- American Consumer Institute CEO Steve Pociask**

“ Given the fact that the United States is competing globally in the 5G technology race, especially with China, it is incumbent upon the FAA and FCC to wrap up this process as quickly as possible. While a one-month delay in rolling out C-band equipment is not the end of the world, additional delays will be more problematic. This is key because 5G wireless systems are expected to provide the connective tissue for many emerging technologies critical to productivity, innovation, and national competitiveness. It would be ironic and regrettable if, just as Congress passed a \$1.2 billion infrastructure package, the Biden administration slows down the deployment of the wireless technology that represents the most important infrastructure for the country’s near-term future.”

**- Information Technology and Innovation Foundation President Rob Atkinson**

“ Absent compelling evidence that harmful interference will occur, the FAA’s attempt to stop or stall 5G in the C-Band should be rejected. Further delay in 5G deployment will deprive consumers and the U.S. economy of valuable broadband services and functions. Halting 5G in the C-Band will thwart the reasonable and heavy investment-backed expectations of wireless providers in new broadband networks.”

**- Free State Foundation’s Randolph May and Seth Cooper**

“ The FAA must withdraw its baseless claim and get out of the way so that wireless providers can build the 5G network our nation needs. The stakes are too high for bureaucratic territorialism to undermine American security, prosperity and technological preeminence.”

**– Center for Individual Freedom President Jeff Mazella**

“ The FAA’s eleventh hour and fifty ninth minute decision to seek to relitigate this question – called the ‘height of irresponsibility’ by a leading progressive telecom attorney and a ‘serious dysfunction’ by the Director of the left-leaning New America Foundation’s Wireless future Project – has already forced a one month delay in the country’s 5G deployment effort. This cuts off new bandwidth and connectivity for consumers around the nation that are anxiously awaiting affordable advanced communications. And it sets back vital efforts to close the digital divide and connect underserved communities.”

**– CALinnovates Executive Director Mike Montgomery**

“ If the United States is going to win the race to 5G, the infighting needs to stop. China is no longer a sleeping giant in the 5G space, it is by all metrics the Thanos to our Avengers. Given that our government sits on nearly 60 percent of the U.S.’ spectrum, we need interagency cooperation to take care of the real threat gaining on 5G—a totalitarian regime controlling the tool to the most important information machine that has ever existed.”

**– Digital Progress Institute President Joel Thayer**

“ The sharing economy — exemplified by Uber and Lyft and Airbnb — was made possible by smartphone technology. In the same way, but probably multiplied by a factor of one thousand, 5G technology will become the foundation of thousands of amazing ideas that will make the lives of consumers more convenient. It will create millions of new jobs and greater opportunity for more and more people. But if we hamstring our own industries and entrepreneurs, the totalitarian regime in China will gladly fill the void. And if China deploys 5G technology, privacy and security will take a huge hit.”

**– Frontiers of Freedom President George Landrith**