

EXPOSED: CTIA'S FALSE CLAIMS ON SPECTRUM



CTIA continues to lie to policymakers - telling Congress they need more exclusive spectrum while admitting to investors they don't - and risking U.S. innovation in the process. Don't take CTIA's word for it. Get the facts.

LIE #1

6G mobile traffic requires more exclusively licensed spectrum.

LIE #2

Major cellular companies don't have enough mid-band spectrum.

LIE #3

Walling off more full-power spectrum for three companies' exclusive use is good for competition.

THE TRUTH:

Verizon, AT&T, and T-Mobile offload their customers on Wi-Fi to do the heavy lifting.

- ▶ Wi-Fi is the workhorse of the internet, connecting hundreds of millions of devices and carrying up to 90% of all mobile internet traffic across the five largest carriers, including the Big Three cellular carriers.

THE TRUTH:

The Big Three aren't using significant amounts of exclusive spectrum they already control.

- ▶ The FCC opened more than 5,400 megahertz of new spectrum for Licensed 5G - nearly 4X MORE than what was added for Wi-Fi - from 2017-2021 alone.
- ▶ The big cellular carriers lobby for more spectrum in D.C. - but keep telling Wall Street investors they have all the spectrum they need. [T-Mobile's](#) CEO told investors, "We've got tons of capacity that we have not yet rolled out..." [Verizon's](#) CEO told investors they already have "multi, multi, multi-years" worth of surplus spectrum.
- ▶ The U.S. has [more mid-band spectrum](#) available for mobile use today than any other benchmark country, including Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

THE TRUTH:

Consumers win when spectrum is open to hundreds of different users.

- ▶ Shared spectrum means lower barriers to entry, clearing the way for more competitors, lower costs, improved service quality, and greater innovation.
- ▶ A lower power sharing framework allows a wider diversity of users to access tailored connectivity options, such as those offered by Wireless Internet Service Providers (WISPs) in rural areas. More than 220 entities won licenses in the 2020 CBRS auction - including 115 small and rural providers.
- ▶ [A shared framework](#) also helps ensure that no single entity or industry can prevent access to the airwaves needed to unlock American ingenuity and create jobs.
- ▶ CBRS has enabled low-barrier access to spectrum tailored to specific use cases, empowering U.S. industries to deploy shared spectrum in factories, farms, warehouses, hotels, airports, and more.

LIE #4

The Big Three are delivering for rural America.

LIE #5

CTIA's demands for exclusive spectrum would quickly bring additional spectrum to market.

LIE #6

CBRS spectrum is "unused."

THE TRUTH:

Rural America runs on spectrum sharing.

- ▶ Spotty service, dead zones, and limited access to high-speed mobile internet continue to frustrate millions of rural Americans where the nation's Big Three cellular carriers have not built out 5G networks – despite owning significant amounts of exclusive 5G spectrum licenses.
- ▶ The CEO of [Verizon](#) recently bragged to investors at a UBS conference that expanding 5G to unserved and rural families is “not the main driver and the priority right now” because they are focused on “quicker revenue, return on investment.”
- ▶ Meanwhile, shared spectrum is helping small wireless internet providers deliver reliable, high-speed broadband services to communities that need it most. For example, [Local2U](#), a West Virginia-based wireless internet service provider, is leveraging CBRS to offer rural communities broadband and mobile connectivity – including critical emergency service communications.

THE TRUTH:

Kicking the U.S. military out of CTIA's preferred bands would take decades – and cost \$120 billion or more.

- ▶ The Pentagon has stated that relocating critical military systems out of the Lower 3GHz band would cost \$120 billion and take 20 years.
- ▶ Former Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro has suggested the true cost of clearing military bands for the Big Three's full-power, licensed use could be even greater – up to an estimated \$250 billion.
- ▶ By contrast, shared spectrum frameworks could bring commercial spectrum to market far faster and without such steep relocation costs by avoiding the expensive and disruptive need to clear out military incumbents.

THE TRUTH:

CBRS powers job creation, unleashes American innovation, and grows the U.S. economy.

- ▶ [Spectrum sharing](#) is attracting investment at a rapid pace – with over 400,000 CBRS base station devices deployed across 98% of U.S. states, D.C., and islands.
- ▶ Already, CBRS is being leveraged for a multitude of uses, including 5G capacity networks, private enterprise networks (including at Ericsson's 5G Smart Factory in Lewisville, Texas), Internet of Things (IoT) applications, building management sensors, real-time logistics at transportation hubs, sensors for precision agriculture, and patient monitoring by hospitals.
- ▶ Importantly, these commercial users co-exist safely and securely with national security systems. For example, the U.S. Navy uses CBRS bands for mission-critical offshore radar operations not far from commercial CBRS installations at Newark Liberty Airport, Seattle's Sound Hotel, and other coastal locations.