

THE STATE OF CBRS 2026

A Proven Model for American Innovation and Competition



THE MOMENT

Launching the CBRS “Innovation Band” stands as one of the signature spectrum policy achievements of the first Trump Administration. But as the FCC explores new spectrum strategies, proposals under discussion could fundamentally disrupt the successful CBRS shared-access framework that has powered widespread innovation and investment since the band’s launch. This is not just about one spectrum band—it’s about whether America’s future spectrum policy embraces flexible, dynamic sharing models that promote competition and innovation, or retreats to exclusive, high-power approaches that limit opportunity to a handful of incumbents.

THE SUCCESS STORY

CBRS is working. Since the first Trump Administration initially auctioned CBRS licenses in 2020, the band has become a powerhouse for American innovation and economic growth:

430,000+

base stations deployed across 98% of U.S. states, D.C., and territories.

278

certified base station models.

\$14B+

invested in CBRS deployment.

Real-world impact across industries: Many end users – including John Deere, Miami International Airport, the National Football League, the U.S. Marine Corps, and countless smaller and rural users from farms to wireless ISPs to school districts – depend on CBRS to power their operations. These real-world benefits are happening today – creating jobs, boosting productivity, and closing connectivity gaps.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

Congress and industry leaders have spoken clearly: **preserve CBRS as it exists today.**

- A broad group of **U.S. Representatives and U.S. Senators** have urged the FCC to protect this critical band and its shared-access framework.
- **CBRS** is fueling innovation and delivering results for consumers. Washington bureaucrats shouldn’t undermine what’s working.
- **America’s spectrum policy** should continue to encourage competition, flexibility, and broad-based participation that can continue to drive U.S. economy and technological leadership.

CBRS is where innovation is happening and delivering results for consumers. Washington bureaucrats shouldn’t touch what’s working.

OUR POSITION

Spectrum for the Future urges the FCC to heed the voices of elected representatives, industry leaders, and rural service providers who have made clear their support for preserving CBRS. Any “modernization” that disrupts the shared-access framework would abandon a proven American innovation, undermine confidence in the spectrum policies and rules established by the FCC, and harm the consumers who are benefiting from CBRS. America’s spectrum policy can either continue encouraging competition, flexibility, and broad-based participation—or reverse course to lessen competitive choice for Americans in favor of further concentrating spectrum in the hands of just three carriers.

CBRS and spectrum sharing represent the future. Let’s protect it.