

# Cable's Spectrum Piggybacking Scheme

The Cableopoly is at it again! They are making a lot of noise in Washington – trying to block access to the licensed spectrum needed for 5G while demanding more spectrum for the CBRS experiment.

**One big problem: The Cableopoly is deploying their mobile product using wireless providers' service without having to do any of the work of deploying their own mobile networks. Their CBRS licenses go unused, so what do they need more for?**

**No incentive to use CBRS.** In Wall Street briefing after Wall Street briefing, the cable monopolies agree: they aren't using the spectrum they have today. According to Charter's CEO, the reason they're not using CBRS is that they have no financial reason to deploy.

**Lots to gain from MVNO.** That's because the Cableopolists' MVNO agreements with wireless providers allow them to piggyback on wireless 5G networks – which operate on licensed spectrum – without paying for the spectrum or infrastructure needed to build out mobile networks.

**Free-loading off wireless spectrum.** Even Wall Street analysts called out the hypocrisy during the C-band licensed spectrum auction, which generated \$81B in revenue, saying cable operators were “going to get access to the spectrum under the MVNO for the same price, so why buy something they get for free?”

For the Cableopoly, it's never been about more spectrum. It's all about avoiding competition and growing profits. It's time to end Cable's Monopoly.



**To ensure more Americans benefit from the better service that comes with home broadband choice, Congress must pass the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" and reinstate the FCC's spectrum auction authority with a pipeline of licensed spectrum. America needs more full-power, licensed spectrum for 5G.**



"US cable companies Comcast and Charter Communications have long suggested that they will build their own small-scale public wireless networks using their 3.5GHz CBRS spectrum holdings. Doing so, according to the companies, will help them reduce their MVNO payments to [wireless companies]. But so far, there are **few signs** they're actually doing that."

 LightReading

"We're very happy MVNO partners on [the wireless] network. I think we're going to have an **incredible** year in wireless."

– Comcast CFO Jason Armstrong

"[W]e don't have to do CBRS to make mobile work"

– Former Charter CEO Tom Rutledge

"Our best guess is that the cable operators were satisfied with their investments in CBRS spectrum, but thought that indicating interest in C-band might **drive up prices**, burdening the balance sheets of their wireless competitors."

– Evercore analysts