



NEWS

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See *MCI v. FCC*, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
September 28, 2012

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**STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER AJIT PAI
ON GOVERNOR BROWN'S DECISION TO SIGN
THE CALIFORNIA INTERNET-PROTOCOL DEREGULATION BILL**

Federal and state telephone regulations were developed in a bygone era when state-sanctioned monopolies ran copper-wire networks. Today's currency is convergence; voice, video, and data are simply different bundles of packets traveling over next-generation networks, rather than different services supplied by niche providers. Accordingly, we need to prepare for an all-IP future, in which cable, telephone, satellite, and wireless companies compete with each other to bring innovative services at better prices to American consumers.

As we do so, I hope that we can draw inspiration from California's recent example. Today, Governor Jerry Brown signed into law the California Internet-Protocol deregulation bill.¹ This legislation will prevent the application of legacy economic regulations to IP services while preserving consumer protections like E911. This legislation was bipartisan work at its best; legislators and the governor set aside partisan differences to enact reforms that will facilitate private investment, economic growth, and job creation. If Golden State Democrats and Republicans can reach a consensus that IP networks should be free from intrusive government regulation, we at the FCC should be able to do so as well.

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¹ S.B. 1161, 2011–2012 Sess. (Ca. 2012), <http://go.usa.gov/YxU5>.