

September 26, 2013

**STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER AJIT PAI ON THE MEDIA BUREAU'S PRESENTATION
ON THE STATUS OF THE LOW-POWER FM FILING WINDOW**

Last December, when we adopted the *Sixth Report and Order*,¹ I asked my colleagues to set October 15, 2013 as the target date for opening the next low-power FM (LPFM) filing window and was pleased when that suggestion was incorporated into the item. I know at the time there were some who weren't sure that the Commission would be able to meet that October 15 target date. But those skeptics underestimated the staff of the Media Bureau's Audio Division.

Over the past nine months, the Audio Division has done yeoman's work. Thanks to their efforts, the Commission stands poised to open the LPFM filing window in three weeks. I know that it wasn't easy. In addition to preparing for the filing window, the Audio Division has processed thousands of FM translator applications. And that wasn't all that was on its plate, of course. The Audio Division has also been developing a comprehensive Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (circulated just last week) on revitalizing AM radio.

I thank Peter Doyle and his terrific team in the Audio Division for all of their hard work. Because of their efforts, I am optimistic that we will have a successful LPFM filing window that will enhance diversity and localism on the FM band. I encourage community organizations across the country to take advantage of this opportunity and look forward to hearing the programming they will produce in the years to come.

¹ *Creation of a Low Power Radio Service*, MM Docket No. 99-25, Fifth Order on Reconsideration and Sixth Report and Order, 27 FCC Rcd 15402, 15519 (2012) (Statement of Commissioner Ajit Pai), available at <http://go.usa.gov/DdMA>.