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For Immediate Release

STATEMENT OF FCC COMMISSIONER AJIT PAI
on AM Radio Revitalization

WASHINGTON, October 1, 2015.—Yesterday, I proposed to my colleagues that we include in the AM radio revitalization item an exclusive window for AM broadcasters to obtain new FM translators. This was the lead proposal in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking unanimously adopted two years ago under the leadership of then-Acting Chairwoman Clyburn. It has received overwhelming support, including previously from a majority of the FCC's current members.

The moment of decision has arrived; Commissioners will now have to decide with whom they will stand. Will they stand with AM broadcasters across the country? Will they stand with 50 CEOs of minority-owned AM radio licensees? Will they stand with the National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters? Will they stand with the Multicultural Media, Telecom, and Internet Council? Will they stand with U.S. House of Representatives and Congressional Black Caucus members Yvette Clarke, Bobby Rush, G.K. Butterfield, Brenda Lawrence, Stacey Plaskett, Elijah Cummings, Andre Carson, Hakeem Jeffries, Donald Payne, Jr., Karen Bass, David Scott, and Marcia Fudge? Will they stand with former Commissioners Michael Copps and Robert McDowell? In short, will they stand for revitalization of a communications service that predates the FCC itself and has exemplified localism, competition, and diversity in broadcasting?

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).