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**For Immediate Release**

**STATEMENT OF FCC COMMISSIONER AJIT PAI
*On the FCC’s Continued Rush Towards Midnight Regulation***

WASHINGTON, December 2, 2016.— Two weeks ago, Congress called on the FCC to respect the tradition followed by Democrats and Republicans alike eight years ago during the last Presidential transition. Accordingly, a bipartisan majority of Commissioners at last month’s FCC meeting heeded Congress’s call to “avoid directing [our] attention and resources . . . to complex, partisan, or otherwise controversial items.”

And yet, last night, Chairman Wheeler launched yet another broadside against free data for consumers, notwithstanding the objections of Republican commissioners. This end-run around Congress’s clear instruction is sad—and pointless. For any unilateral action taken by the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau at the Chairman’s direction in the next 49 days can quickly be undone by that same bureau after January 20, 2017.

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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).*