



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 7, 2017

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
United States Senate  
260 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

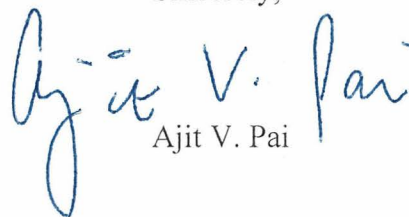
Dear Senator Blunt:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase II competitive bidding process. One of my top priorities as Chairman is closing the digital divide for rural Americans who lack sufficient high-speed Internet access. I believe everyone should have online opportunity, and I know there is virtually no limit to what Americans who are disconnected today could achieve tomorrow if they were participants in, rather than spectators of, the digital economy.

That is why I asked my colleagues to vote on the CAF Phase II auction at our February 23 meeting, the first monthly meeting at which I could set the agenda. And I was pleased that we adopted bidding weights that will encourage all technologies—from the fastest fiber to terrestrial wireless to satellite services—to compete. As your letter made clear, ensuring that every party, including new entrants like the electric cooperatives of rural Missouri, has a chance to win means a more competitive auction and better, faster, cheaper services for rural consumers.

I look forward to continue working with you as the Commission moves towards holding the CAF Phase II reverse auction. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai".  
Ajit V. Pai