



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

WASHINGTON

March 7, 2017

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham
U.S. House of Representatives
214 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Grisham:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of addressing the lack of broadband on Tribal lands in which you correctly note that I pledged to take action to address the digital divide on Tribal lands. I take this pledge seriously. Last September, when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda I explained that "... 41% of those living on Tribal lands lack adequate access" to broadband.

That is why I am proud to have proposed to my colleagues, and for the FCC to have adopted, the Tribal Mobility Fund Phase II at the Commission's February 23 meeting. That Fund will direct approximately \$340 million to build out 4G LTE coverage on Tribal lands. I have also asked the Commission's Office of Native Affairs and Policy to coordinate with the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and the Wireline Competition Bureau to help direct that funding to reach Tribal members in remote areas that would otherwise be without access to next-generation services.

In the same vein, in early February, I circulated to my colleagues an order that would assist carriers serving Tribal lands in deploying, upgrading, and maintaining modern high-speed networks. The order recognizes that carriers serving Tribal lands incur costs that other rural carriers do not face, resulting in significantly higher operating expenses to serve very sparsely populated service areas. The proposal I have put before my colleagues would allow carriers serving Tribal lands a greater ability to recover operating expenses, thus improving the financial viability of operating a broadband network serving Tribal lands.

Additionally, I directed the Universal Service Administrative Company to give additional time to Tribal families living in the remote reaches of the Navajo Nation to comply with a certification deadline for the Lifeline program. I have attached the letter I sent to Mr. Russell Begaye, President of the Navajo Nation, detailing that situation.

These are just some of the Commission's efforts to connect those on Tribal lands. I look forward to continue working with you as we move forward. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A".

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

March 7, 2017

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
United States Senate
303 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Heinrich:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of addressing the lack of broadband on Tribal lands in which you correctly note that I pledged to take action to address the digital divide on Tribal lands. I take this pledge seriously. Last September, when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda I explained that “. . . 41% of those living on Tribal lands lack adequate access” to broadband.

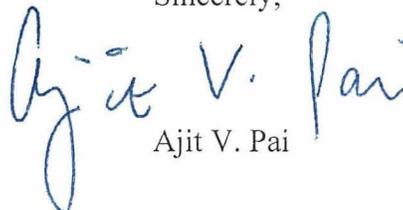
That is why I am proud to have proposed to my colleagues, and for the FCC to have adopted, the Tribal Mobility Fund Phase II at the Commission’s February 23 meeting. That Fund will direct approximately \$340 million to build out 4G LTE coverage on Tribal lands. I have also asked the Commission’s Office of Native Affairs and Policy to coordinate with the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and the Wireline Competition Bureau to help direct that funding to reach Tribal members in remote areas that would otherwise be without access to next-generation services.

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

March 7, 2017

The Honorable Ben Ray Luján
U.S. House of Representatives
2231 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Luján:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of addressing the lack of broadband on Tribal lands in which you correctly note that I pledged to take action to address the digital divide on Tribal lands. I take this pledge seriously. Last September, when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda I explained that “. . . 41% of those living on Tribal lands lack adequate access” to broadband.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

March 7, 2017

The Honorable Steve Pearce
U.S. House of Representatives
2432 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pearce:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of addressing the lack of broadband on Tribal lands in which you correctly note that I pledged to take action to address the digital divide on Tribal lands. I take this pledge seriously. Last September, when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda I explained that “. . . 41% of those living on Tribal lands lack adequate access” to broadband.

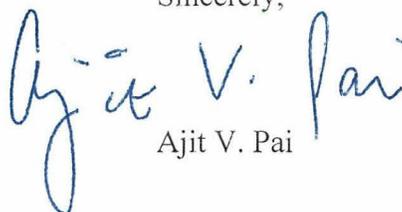
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THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

March 7, 2017

The Honorable Tom Udall
United States Senate
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of addressing the lack of broadband on Tribal lands in which you correctly note that I pledged to take action to address the digital divide on Tribal lands. I take this pledge seriously. Last September, when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda I explained that "... 41% of those living on Tribal lands lack adequate access" to broadband.

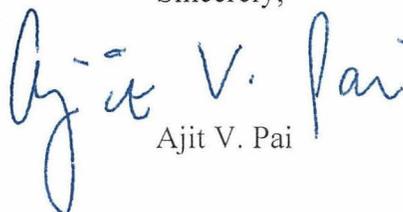
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