



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

April 10, 2017

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo
U.S. House of Representatives
241 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Eshoo:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to take additional steps to increase transparency and accessibility for online political file information.

The Commission is continuing to modernize its processes to make political files more accessible to the public. The Commission took the first step to modernize its public file rules for broadcast television licensees in 2012, moving television public files that previously were retained at stations' local main studios to an online, Commission-hosted database. TV broadcasters completed their transition to the online file in July 2014. Moving to an online filing process made it easier for consumers to access information about their broadcast services without having to travel to the station's main studio and reduced the cost of broadcaster compliance.

In January 2016, the Commission expanded the move to online filing to cable, radio, and satellite operators. Satellite operators, and large cable and radio stations completed this transition, effective December 2016. Cable systems with fewer than 5,000 subscribers have until March 1, 2018 to begin placing political file material in the online public file, except systems with fewer than 1,000 subscribers, which are exempt from all online file requirements. All non-commercial radio broadcast stations, commercial radio broadcast stations in the top 50 Nielsen Audio markets with fewer than five full-time employees, and all commercial radio broadcast stations in markets below the top 50 or outside all markets have until March 1, 2018 to begin using the online public file.

On January 31, 2017, the Commission eliminated two public inspection file rules: (1) the requirement that commercial television and radio broadcast stations retain, and make available to the public, paper copies of letters and emails from the public; and (2) the requirement that cable operators maintain for public inspection the designation and location of a cable system's principal headend. Eliminating these requirements will further reduce regulatory burdens without adversely affecting the general public.

These changes collectively enable full public inspection files to be available online and further the FCC's recent progress towards modernizing its public inspection file rules.

You also mention the Media Bureau's order resolving several political file complaints, including complaints regarding our sponsorship ID rules, from back in January. That order

addressed significant issues that had not been previously addressed by the full Commission; it thus should not have been released at the staff level. Instead, under FCC rules, new or novel issues must be addressed by the entire Commission. My office is currently reviewing the previous order and considering next steps.

Finally, the Commission staff is continuing to examine the feasibility and costs associated with making online political files machine readable. Although no decision has been made in this area, I can assure you that the Commission will continue its ongoing efforts to modernize its political and public file requirements where it is appropriate in order to facilitate access for consumers and reduce regulatory burdens on broadcasters and MVPDs.

I appreciate your interest in this matter as your views are very important and will be considered as part of the Commission's review. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Ajit V. Pai

P.S. Congresswoman, thank you for your very kind note about my designation as Chairman! I've enjoyed working with you on issues as varied as public safety and 5 GHz spectrum, and look forward to collaborating in the time to come.



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

April 10, 2017

The Honorable Mike Doyle
U.S. House of Representatives
239 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Doyle:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to take additional steps to increase transparency and accessibility for online political file information.

The Commission is continuing to modernize its processes to make political files more accessible to the public. The Commission took the first step to modernize its public file rules for broadcast television licensees in 2012, moving television public files that previously were retained at stations' local main studios to an online, Commission-hosted database. TV broadcasters completed their transition to the online file in July 2014. Moving to an online filing process made it easier for consumers to access information about their broadcast services without having to travel to the station's main studio and reduced the cost of broadcaster compliance.

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Sincerely,



Ajit V. Pai



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

April 10, 2017

The Honorable Diana DeGette
U.S. House of Representatives
2368 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman DeGette:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to take additional steps to increase transparency and accessibility for online political file information.

The Commission is continuing to modernize its processes to make political files more accessible to the public. The Commission took the first step to modernize its public file rules for broadcast television licensees in 2012, moving television public files that previously were retained at stations' local main studios to an online, Commission-hosted database. TV broadcasters completed their transition to the online file in July 2014. Moving to an online filing process made it easier for consumers to access information about their broadcast services without having to travel to the station's main studio and reduced the cost of broadcaster compliance.

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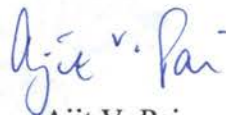
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Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai

P.S. Congresswoman, I look forward to working with you in the time to come. (In fact one of my process reform initiatives was inspired by some questions you asked at a past oversight hearing.) Don't hesitate to call me if I can be helpful!



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

April 10, 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 urging the Commission to take additional steps to increase transparency and accessibility for online political file information.

The Commission is continuing to modernize its processes to make political files more accessible to the public. The Commission took the first step to modernize its public file rules for broadcast television licensees in 2012, moving television public files that previously were retained at stations' local main studios to an online, Commission-hosted database. TV broadcasters completed their transition to the online file in July 2014. Moving to an online filing process made it easier for consumers to access information about their broadcast services without having to travel to the station's main studio and reduced the cost of broadcaster compliance.

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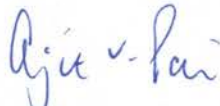
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Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai





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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

April 10, 2017

The Honorable Gene Green
U.S. House of Representatives
2470 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Green:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to take additional steps to increase transparency and accessibility for online political file information.

The Commission is continuing to modernize its processes to make political files more accessible to the public. The Commission took the first step to modernize its public file rules for broadcast television licensees in 2012, moving television public files that previously were retained at stations' local main studios to an online, Commission-hosted database. TV broadcasters completed their transition to the online file in July 2014. Moving to an online filing process made it easier for consumers to access information about their broadcast services without having to travel to the station's main studio and reduced the cost of broadcaster compliance.

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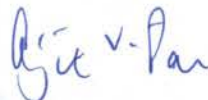
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Sincerely,



Ajit V. Pai

P.S. Congresswoman, I look forward to working with you!
Don't hesitate to let me know if I can be helpful on
issues of interest to you and residents of the 29th
District.



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

April 10, 2017

The Honorable Jerry McNerney
U.S. House of Representatives
2265 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McNerney:

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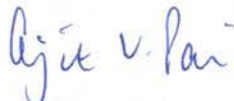
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Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

April 10, 2017

The Honorable John Sarbanes
U.S. House of Representatives
2444 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Sarbanes:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to take additional steps to increase transparency and accessibility for online political file information.

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Sincerely,



Ajit V. Pai

P.S. Congressman, please don't hesitate to get in touch if I or the FCC generally can be of assistance on matters of importance to you and the 3rd District.



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

April 10, 2017

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
U.S. House of Representatives
2367 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Schakowsky:

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The Commission is continuing to modernize its processes to make political files more accessible to the public. The Commission took the first step to modernize its public file rules for broadcast television licensees in 2012, moving television public files that previously were retained at stations' local main studios to an online, Commission-hosted database. TV broadcasters completed their transition to the online file in July 2014. Moving to an online filing process made it easier for consumers to access information about their broadcast services without having to travel to the station's main studio and reduced the cost of broadcaster compliance.

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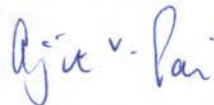
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Sincerely,



Ajit V. Pai

P.S. Congresswoman, please don't hesitate to get in touch if I or the FCC generally can be helpful on matters of importance to you and residents of the 9th District.



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

April 10, 2017

The Honorable Peter Welch
U.S. House of Representatives
2303 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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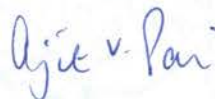
Page 2—The Honorable Peter Welch

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small "v" between the first and last names.

Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

April 10, 2017

The Honorable John Yarmuth
U.S. House of Representatives
131 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Yarmuth:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to take additional steps to increase transparency and accessibility for online political file information.

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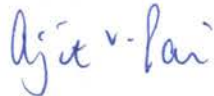
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Sincerely,



Ajit V. Pai

P.S. Congressman, don't hesitate to get in touch if I or the FCC generally can be helpful on matters of importance to the 3rd District. Even as a Harvard alum, I'm always willing and able to help Yalies when the need arises!