



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

June 5, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your letter which makes clear that we share the same goal of ensuring that all Americans have access to mobile broadband service regardless of where they live. The very first sentence of the Communications Act of 1934 directs the Commission to “make available, so far as possible, to all the people of the United States, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex, a rapid, efficient, Nation-wide, and world-wide wire and radio communication service.” I and the hard-working staff at the FCC take this promise seriously.

Closing the digital divide is my top priority, and that’s why the Commission adopted the second phase of the Mobility Fund at the agency’s February meeting. The Mobility Fund will preserve and advance mobile broadband service in rural America so that rural families and farmers, miners and ranchers, small businesses and growing towns, have the opportunity to access the high-speed mobile services taken for granted in urban areas. The Mobility Fund is a long-term investment directing up to four-and-a-half billion dollars to rural America over the next decade. It is also designed to distribute federal funds efficiently, using a competitive reverse auction to redirect universal service funding toward areas that would otherwise be unserved.

I appreciate your interest in this matter, and I appreciate your kind words regarding my commitment to transparency. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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

Ajit V. Pai